

Less family, more work?
Labour market participation in terms of the family type:
a comparison of 11 European member states

by

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The central issue of this contribution is a descriptive analysis of the labour market participation of men and women in terms of the family type. The analysis is based on the European Labour Force Survey, which allows for comparisons of 11 European member states (EU-11). The year 2000 is central to the analysis, which also covers the evolution in the period 1990-2000.

The analysis aims to provide a reliable basis for cross-country comparisons on labour market participation. As such, the analysis can serve as a basis for research on work-family situations within a European context.

This paper provides a summary of the results and focuses on the differences between the European member states. The appendix to the paper contains a series of charts and a number of detailed tables.

Further figures are available on line at:

http://www.steunpuntwav.be/stat/2002/2002deel2_cijferbijlage/2002deel2_cijferbijlage.htm

Introduction and methodology

During the course of the 1990s, the number of people employed in the European Union increased by about 8.7 million people (European Commission, 2002, p. 173). 7.3 million or 83% of these are women. In other words, the feminisation of the labour market, which started in the 1960s, continues unabated. The employment of women increases, even in times of economic recession. This means that instead of serving as a labour reserve, women have become a permanent part of the working population (Rubery, 1999). The increasing female participation occurred against the background of important changes in family structure. Both the composition and the life cycle of the household in and outside the family context have changed significantly in the last ten years. These changes started a few decades ago, and have taken place at different rates in the various member states (Coleman, 1999).

From the perspective of a transitional labour market, a higher labour market participation can be realised if this participation is geared to the personal life course of the individual and to the individual family situation. The subject of this paper is the way in which men and women in Europe shape their participation in the labour market consistent with their family situation. In this way, we try to reveal (new) difficulties with regard to the relation between family situations and labour market participation.

Smaller household units

The changes in the structure of households during the course of the 1990s can be summarised by stating that the household units are becoming smaller. In all the countries studied in this paper, the number of families with three or more children has fallen, and in most countries there was also a decline in the number of families with two children. In most countries there has been a great increase in the number of couples without children. However, the most remarkable increase is in the numbers of people living alone: in the 11 European countries concerned, approximately 10% of the population aged between 15-65 were living alone in 2000, while this was only 7.6% in 1990. There has also been a significant increase in the number of single parents in the last ten years.

Greater diversity

The fall in the average number of children per woman is one of the important factors in the changing composition of the family (Eurostat, 1999a). Families with two children are now the norm, closely followed in most countries by families with one child. The change in the number of children goes with fundamental changes in the participation of women in employment. However, there is more to this than merely the fall in the number of children. Since the 1970s, there has also been, in most European countries, a decline in the number of marriages and an increase in the number of divorces, marriage and the birth of the first child are postponed to a later age, more and more men and women are not having children, types of cohabitation outside marriage are increasing significantly, and there is a substantial increase in the number of single-parent families. The result of these evolutions is a greater diversity in the composition of households.¹ This diversity is reflected in more variation in the patterns of participation of men and women in the labour market.

¹ On the 'destandardisation of household structure' and its causes, see Lesthaeghe, R. (2000).

Types of household and the data source

This paper classifies the types of households from the perspective of the individual. This means that the population is not subdivided into types of households units, but in categories of the situation of individuals in a particular type of household. For example, a family which consists of a couple of parents and two children is not classified in this paper as one family of the type 'couple of parents with two children', but as four individuals of whom two fall in the category 'living with a partner and two children', and two in the category 'living with parents'. The precise description of the various types of households can be found in appendix 1.

The source on which our analysis is based is the European Labour Force Survey (LFS). Because of the limitations of this databank, only 11 European member states could be included in the analysis. The LFS does not have household data on an individual level for Sweden, Denmark or Finland; for Luxembourg the various categories of households are too small to be reliable. The 11 European member states which were included in the analysis are Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. The average of these 11 countries is indicated by 'EU-11'.

The most recent data used in the analysis concern the year 2000. In addition, the evolution in the course of the 1990s is also discussed. The LFS does not provide reliable time series for all 11 countries. As we avoided breaks in the time series, the period available in this paper is not the same for all countries. For example, the time series for Austria, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland and the Netherlands are incomplete. For Belgium, Italy and Portugal, we use *progressive averages*: as the LFS data for these countries reveal large fluctuations every year, the data for one year were replaced by the average of three successive years.

Structure of the paper

The aim of this paper is to provide a framework in figures of the participation in employment in terms of the type of family. We outline the differences and similarities between the different member states. The participation in employment of the population differs strongly in terms of age and gender. We examine whether the type of family constitutes an additional significant factor. We assess the extent to which a number of current views still apply: for example, the view that women with children are less prominently represented on the labour market than women without children. In addition, a number of comparisons between types of households which are less obvious are examined, such as, for example, the difference between people living alone and couples, between older people with and without children, etc.

The general structure of this paper is based on three main age groups: following an introduction on the development of different types of households, there are three chapters on young people (aged 15-24), adults (25-49), and older people (50-64). Special attention is devoted to the distinction between men and women.

In order to ensure that the description can be clearly interpreted, the countries with more or less similar patterns are grouped together in the analysis. On the whole, there is a clear dividing line between the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France, Austria, Great Britain and Ireland on the one hand, and the Southern European countries, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece, on the other hand. However, we regularly find that we have to deviate from this classification. For want of a better term, the first group of countries described above are described as 'mid-European' and

Anglo-Saxon countries, in which the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France and Austria are the 'mid-European' countries.

In this paper, the employment situation of the population is mainly described in terms of the employment rate. The unemployment rate is only included in the analysis where it adds an essential aspect to the description of a particular group. The classification of the population into employed, unemployed and inactive, is based on the international ILO definition. In this paper the group of inactive people fall into two groups: students and other inactive people. Students are all those people who are inactive and who have been in education in a reference period of four weeks. The other people (who are neither employed, nor unemployed, nor student) are described by the term, 'inactive'.

1. Profile of family types (table 1 and table 2)

In the working age population (15-64), the most common type of family is that of a person living with a partner and one or more children (40%) (chart 1.1). The child living with parents and the couple without children (living at home) come in second place (respectively 21% and 19%). However, most member states deviate significantly from this average European pattern (chart 1.2-1.3).

1.1 Living with parents

In 2000, approximately one in five inhabitants aged between 15 and 64 lived with his or her parents in EU-11.² In the *Southern European countries* (Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece), this is much more (up to one in three in Spain). On the one hand, this is because of the younger age structure of the population between 15 and 64 in these countries (there are more young people between the ages of 15 and 24), and it is also due to the fact that a larger proportion of these young people are still living with their parents. Furthermore, men and women in these countries live in the parental home up to an older age (Castiglioni & Dalla Zuanna, 1994). This trend has increased even further in the last ten years: in Spain, Italy and Greece about a quarter of people in their early thirties (30-34) lived with their parents in 2000 (chart 1.4). In *Ireland* also, the young population structure means that a large proportion of the population lives in the parental home (27% of people between the ages of 15-64).

In the *Netherlands, Germany, France and Great Britain*, the type of family 'living with parents' is much less common (15-18% of the population of working age) and it occurs mainly in the 15-24 year olds (chart 1.5).

Belgium and Austria fall between these two groups of countries. Approximately one in five inhabitants between the ages of 15-64 still live with their parents.

Men live with their parents more often than *women*. This applies for all the European countries discussed here, both for people aged 15-24 and for adults (chart 1.6). In the age categories over

² In this family type one of the parents is the reference person of the household. See appendix 1.

the age of 25, almost twice as many men as women still live in the parental home in all the countries.

1.2 Living alone

On average, one in ten people of working age live in a one-person household in EU-11. Young adults (aged 20-34) and older people (over the age of 50) particularly often live alone. In general, men live alone slightly more often than women (11% compared with 9% in EU-11), but this no longer applies at a higher age: proportionately there are more single women between the ages of 50 and 64 than single men (14% compared with 10% in EU-11) (chart 1.7).

Increasing numbers of people live alone

The increase in the number of one-person households is a very pronounced trend in the pattern of households of the population of working age. In some countries, the number of people living alone increased by one third or more during the 1990s. Once again, there is a large distinction between the two groups of countries. On the one hand, the Netherlands, Germany and France have a relatively high number of one-person households in all the age categories (average 13%), while on the other hand, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Greece have a very low percentage of people living alone (average 4%). The other countries fall between these two groups.

Living alone for young and old

In the Netherlands, Germany and France, a large number of young people (aged 15-24) live in a one-person household (10%). The percentage of people living alone reaches a peak in the group of people aged 25-29 (approximately 20%) (chart 1.7). In these countries, it is increasingly common for young people to live through an 'intermediate stage' for some time, after leaving the parental home and before starting their own family (Lesthaeghe, 2000). Amongst older people the percentage of people living alone is also increasing in these three countries: in 2000, on average 15% of 50-64 year-olds lived alone. But, one-person households are not longer a polarised group of young people before or between relationships, on the one hand, and widowed elderly people, on the other hand. In these three member states the percentage of people living alone has also increased amongst 25-50 year-olds: from 11% to 14% in the last decade (1992-2000). The main cause of this evolution is in the increase in the number of divorces and separations (Surkyn, 1999). Because children usually stay with the mother after a divorce, there are almost twice as many men as women in this age category who live in a one-person household; women in turn are more often the head of a single parent family.

In the Southern European countries, people living alone are still fairly rare, as at the beginning of the 1990s (chart 1.8). Before the age of 60, the percentage of people living alone lies around 5%, and in Portugal and Spain it is even below this. Ireland corresponds to the Southern European pattern, though there are slightly more people over the age of 50 living alone.

Belgium, Austria and Great Britain are closer to the pattern of the first group of countries, though the proportion of people living alone is smaller for all the age categories (on average 10-11%, compared with 13% in the first group of countries).

1.3 Living with a partner without children

There was a strong increase between 1990 and 2000 in the number of people living as a couple without children. One in five people of working age in EU-11 live in this type of household. Half of these are people over the age of 50: in general, these are couples whose children have already left the parental home.

In *the Netherlands, Germany, France and Great Britain*, 25% of the population live as a couple without children (chart 1.9). This type of family is particularly common amongst young adults (with a peak in the age category 25-35), and with the over-50s. Furthermore, this type of household is more common than ten years ago for both age categories. As regards young people, this evolution is closely related to postponing marriage and having children at a later age.

In the *South European countries and in Ireland*, it is mainly young adults and older people who live with a partner without children (chart 1.10). However, their relative numbers are much smaller (10% of the population of working age). The explanation for this is the fact that in these countries people continue to live with their parents for a long time. This not only means that the proportion of young people who leave the parental home to live with someone else (or alone) remains very low, but older people also continue to belong to the category 'couple with children' for a long time before they fall in the category 'couple without children'.

Once again, *Belgium and Austria* do not fall in either of these groups of countries and stick to the European average: approximately 20% of people between the ages of 15 and 64 live in a couple without children.

1.4 Living with a partner and children

The couple with children is the dominant type of family in the European member states. In the year 2000, approximately 40% of the population lived under one roof with their partner and children. This proportion is the same for men and women. Once again, two groups of countries can be distinguished: in the Southern European Countries, the percentage of couples with children is slightly higher than 40%. In the other European member states it is slightly lower. The two groups of countries also differ from each other in terms of age structure.

Parents of different ages

In all the European countries concerned, the number of couples with children in the younger age categories (up to 25) is very limited (3%). In the age category 25-49, approximately half of the population lives with a partner and children. The peak is between the ages of 35-44, where 60-70% of the population lives in this type of household (chart 1.11). In the Southern European countries, this peak occurs at a slightly older age (40-49) and is slightly higher (70% of the population) (chart 1.12). However, the most striking difference between the two groups of countries concerns the older age categories: in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France and Great Britain, only one in four people over the age of 50 live with a partner and children. In the Southern European countries and Ireland, this is almost 50%, or even higher. Once again, the main explanation for this is the fact that children in these countries continue to live in the parental home for much longer.

Number of children in the family

More than 80% of the couples with children have one or two children (chart 1.13). In most countries, couples with two children are slightly more common than couples with one child. It should be noted that this analysis concerned the number of children still living in the parental home and not the total number of children of these couples.³ Couples with three or more children living at home are much less common in all the European countries. Only Ireland has a high percentage of 'large families'.

Fewer (families with) children

In all the countries concerned, the percentage of couples with three or more children declined in the course of the 1990s, so that approximately 7% of the population of working age was still living with a partner and more than two children in 2000 (chart 1.14). Ireland is the only exception to this, with 16% of its population of working age living with a partner and at least three children (chart 1.15). The proportion of couples with one or two children has also declined in the last decade in almost all countries, though only slightly: more and more adults are choosing to have fewer children or to remain childless (Eurostat, 1999a).⁴

One important exception to the general evolution of the decline in numbers of couples with children is the older age category in Southern Europe. For the over-50s in Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece, there was a strong increase in the number of couples with children living at home (on average from 48% to 53% in 1990-2000). Once again, the trend of children remaining in the parental home for longer is the explanation for this.

1.5 Single-parent families

In 2000, 3-4% of the population of working age in EU-11 was the head of a single-parent family. The majority are women (86%). For men, the percentage of single parents is a maximum of 1% in all the member states. Therefore, the analysis of this type of household is restricted to the female population.

In the member states that were considered, 6% of the female population of working age are the head of a single-parent family. Once again, the pattern in the Southern European countries and Ireland differs from that in the rest of Europe.

In the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France and Austria, an average of 6% of the female population of working age are single mothers. The highest percentage of single mothers is amongst women aged 35-49: approximately 10% of women fall in this type of family (chart 1.16). As is the case for the increase in one-person households, the increase in the number of single-parent families is one of the most striking evolutions of the last ten years. The growth in this type of family mainly takes place in the age category 25-50. The growing number of divorces and separations is the main explanation (Surkyn, 1999).

³ The average family size, measured as 'completed fertility rate' of women, amounts to approximately 1.8 for the generations born in 1950-1965 (average in the EU). Detailed information can be found in Eurostat (1999).

⁴ The strong decline in the number of couples with three or more children resulted in a slight increase in the couples with one or two children in some countries (Spain, Portugal and Ireland).

In the *Southern European countries and Ireland*, there has also been an increase in the number of single mothers in the last ten years (chart 1.17). However, the share of this type of family is limited to 4-5% of the female population of working age. Furthermore, the age pattern in the Southern European countries differs significantly from that in the other member states: the percentage of single parents increases with age. This means that in the higher age categories there are relatively more single-parent families than in the other member states (8% compared with 4% of the female population of working age).

Finally, the number of single-parent families has almost doubled in the last ten years in *Great Britain* (chart 1.18). In 1999, 10.4% of the female population of working age lived in this type of family. The high number of teenage pregnancies means that there is already a high percentage of single mothers in the young age categories (3% compared with less than 1% in the rest of EU-11). Furthermore, 15% of British women aged 25-50 are the head of a single-parent family.

1.6 Other types of families

The types of family described above account for 93% of the population of working age in this analysis. The other 7% live in family situations which are less common (e.g., parents living with one of their children who is the reference person of the household, or adults being the reference person with parents who live with them), in a composite type of household (e.g., several generations living together under one roof), in a household situation with a family core and other persons (e.g., a family with a friend living in) or in a household with several adults with or without children.

There are large differences between the member states with regard to the percentage of the population living in these 'other' types of households (see tables in the appendix). For all the countries, 'other' types of households occur more often for people over the age of 50 than for other categories.

2. Young people between the ages of 15-24: at home or at work (table 3)

There are many factors which influence the participation of young people in employment (Ryan, 1999). The length of training or studies can be important, the nature of the education system can play a role (e.g., the possibility of combining work and learning), and the availability of part-time jobs can increase the participation of young people (who are still studying) in employment. Furthermore, general labour market measures and specific programmes intended for young people have a clear effect on the chances of the participation of young people (OECD, 1998), but also the employment situation of the total population and other economic indicators have a direct influence on the participation of young people.

The type of household in which young people live is subject to a similar series of factors; for example, continuing (higher) education generally leads to postponing marriage and children. It is less obvious that the employment situation of young people can also have an effect on their type of family; for example, earning an income can determine the choice of young people to leave the

parental home.⁵ In addition to education and the situation on the labour market, numerous other socio-cultural and economic elements play a role in determining the type of household of young people (Lesthaeghe, 2000). Our analysis shows that there is a strong correlation between the situation on the labour market and the type of household, even at a young age.

On average, approximately 80% of young people (aged 15-24) in the European members states concerned here (EU-11) still live in the parental home. In the Southern European countries this is slightly higher (90%); in the Netherlands, Germany, France, Great Britain and Ireland, slightly lower (72%). Austria and Belgium are around the European average. Only two other types of households are common for 15-24 year-olds: one-person households ('single persons', 6% of young people), and young people who live together with a partner but without children ('couples', 5% of young people).

Only 39% of young people in EU-11 have a paid job. This low level of employment is only found in the young people still living at home (chart 2.1): while the employment rate of young people living alone (59%), and certainly that of couples (77%), reaches a significant level, the employment rate of young people living with their parents is extremely low (35%). The explanation for this is obvious: 52% of young people living at home are (not working) students.⁶ A rather small proportion of young people living with their parents are unemployed (8%), or inactive (5%). However, there are large national differences in the employment rates of young people living at home, from 19% in Belgium, to 66% in the Netherlands. These differences are closely related to the extent to which young people combine their studies with a job.

Living at home: studying and working where possible

In the Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain and Austria it is usual for young people who are studying to have a paid job at the same time. In the Netherlands and Great Britain, many young people combine their study with a (part-time) job (OECD, 1998), and in Germany and Austria the apprenticeship/dual-type systems (education combined with training at the workplace) has become very common. The employment rates of young people living at home in these countries is therefore relatively high: from 66% in the Netherlands to 40% in Germany (chart 2.2).

In Belgium, France and the Southern European countries it is rare for young people to combine their studies with a job (Bowers, 1999). Therefore the employment rate of young people living at home is extremely low there (20% to 30%). In Belgium, France and Portugal, the large proportion of students amongst young people is the most important explanation for the low employment rate of young people living at home (chart 2.3). In Greece, Italy and Spain, the group of people living at home includes a large number of unemployed and inactive people (15% or more), as well as students (chart 2.4). The low youth employment rate in these countries can only partly be explained by the number of (not working) students.

⁵ According to the Euro barometer survey in the spring of 1997, almost three quarters of people aged 15-24 are of the opinion that financial dependence on parents is the reason why young people continue to live with their parents for longer than in the past (Bowers et al., 1999, table 4).

⁶ N.b: this does not mean that only 52% of young people in this type of household are studying. In the classification used here, the status, 'employed' and 'unemployed' have priority over the status of student. This means that a student who complies with the ILO definition for 'employed' or 'unemployed' is classified in that category, and not under students.

Single people living alone and young couples

As young people in Southern Europe and Ireland only live alone or together with partner in exceptional cases, the discussion of these two types of households is restricted to Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, France and Great Britain.⁷ In these countries, a significant percentage of young people have already left the parental home (table 2). This is partly the result of changing living patterns, but also because of the possibility of combining a study with a job, the existence of study grants, and other supportive measures for young people (Lesthaeghe, 2000). On average, 8% of young people in these countries live in one-person households and 7% in a couple without children. The employment rate in these types of households is at a reasonable level (respectively 60% and 79%) (chart 2.5). The ones who are not working in these types of households are almost all students.

Evolution

In most countries in this paper, the employment rate of young people has fallen in the course of the last ten years. This decline is concentrated almost exclusively in one type of household, i.e. young people living with their parents. At the same time, we find that the proportion of students in this type of household has systematically increased in the last ten years (chart 2.6-2.7). As the number of people living at home is by far the largest group amongst young people (80%), their declining employment rate determines that of the overall group of young people in a country.

Youth unemployment: a persistent problem

In contrast with the employment rate which differs significantly depending on the type of family, there is a high level of youth unemployment in all types of households. Depending on the tax-related measures and social provisions in various countries, there are more young unemployed in one type of household than in another (Lesthaeghe, 2000), and the overall youth unemployment rates also differ significantly from country to country. However, a relatively high youth unemployment rate is a constant factor in all countries

As regards the evolution of unemployment, there is no clear difference between young people in terms of types of family either: periods of higher unemployment appear to affect young people in all types of households. Only the Netherlands seems to have succeeded in bringing down youth unemployment to a very low level in the last decade. This decline can be seen in all the types of households.

Young men and women

In general, young men are employed slightly more often than young women in EU-11 (43% compared with 36%). In the South, the gap between the sexes is twice as large as in the 'mid-European' and Anglo-Saxon countries (table 3). Amongst young women, there are slightly more unemployed students than amongst young men (48% compared with 45%). The analysis shows that the differences between men and women are not the same for all types of families.

There is already a difference in the employment rate of men and women at a very young age, when the young people are still living with their parents: in all the countries of EU-11, women living at home are employed less often than men (39% compared with 30%) (chart 2.8). Even when young women living at home are employed, they are in part-time employment twice as

⁷ Austria is not discussed either because the LFS data of this country do not contain any information about the number of students.

often as men (29% compared with 16%). In addition, there is a larger percentage of not-working students amongst young women living at home than amongst men (56% compared with 48%). Both the fact that women between 15-24 are in education slightly more than young men, and the fact that they combine their studies less often with a job (Bowers et al., 1999, fig. 1), explain the lower employment rate of women in this type of household.

There is also a clear difference between the employment rate of young men and young women who live in couples (76% compared with 83%) (chart 2.9). However, in contrast with people living at home, the gap between the sexes in this type of household is not explained by a higher proportion of (not-working) students amongst the women, but by a higher proportion of unemployed and inactive women. In addition, the difference between the sexes with regard to part-time work is biggest in this type of family. The most likely explanation for this gap between the sexes appears to be that the traditional model of the breadwinner, with separate tasks of men and women, has a stronger effect on young people who are already living together with a partner than for those who are (still) living alone or who have not yet started a family.

Young people living alone appear to be a slightly gender-neutral group with approximately 60% employed in both sexes (chart 2.10). Only the proportion of part-time work is higher for women than for men (on average, 26% compared with 18% of the employed in EU-11).

Conclusion

The analysis shows that there is a strong correlation between the situation on the labour market and the type of family in which young people live. It is not possible to identify, on the basis of these data, a causal link between these two characteristics, in particular whether the (choice for) a particular type of family has an influence on the employment rate of young people.

However, the finding that the differences between the sexes with regard to the employment rate is larger or smaller depending on the type of household, suggests that the (choice of a particular) type of household certainly does have an influence on the employment rate of young men and women. Therefore the explanation for the different employment rates of young men and women living in a couple probably lies in the fact that the traditional division of tasks still applies to part of the young population living in this type of family.

3. Adults between the ages of 25-49: the busy age (table 4)

People between the ages of 25-49 are the most active population group in the labour market in all the European countries. At the same time, this is the stage of life at which people start a family, buy a house, have children and raise them... in other words, it is a busy age. Nevertheless, not all people between the ages of 25-49 have a paid job. For example, men in this age category are employed much more than women. The most important explanation for this is the inhibitory influence of children in the household on the employment rate of mothers.

However, the distinction between mothers and the other part of the population no longer suffices to explain the differences between adults who are employed and those who are not. In a number of other types of households, the employment rate of women and/or men is also significantly lower than average (chart 3.1). On the other hand, the employment rate of mothers has increased

significantly in the last ten years, at least in certain countries, in certain age categories, in certain family situations, with a certain number of children...

Below we examine the characteristics of the labour market for adults in the 'busy age' in terms of the type of family, with the aim of providing a better picture of the labour market participation of this age category.

3.1 Living with parents

On average, only 6% of people aged 25-49 live with their parents in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France and Great Britain. Therefore the employment rate of people in this type of household only has a small influence on the situation of the overall population aged 25-49. In the Southern European countries (Spain, Greece, Italy and Portugal) people living at home do have a prominent place amongst adults: in these countries, on average one in four people between the ages of 24-49 still live with their parents. We will look at the two groups of countries separately.

'Mid-European' and Anglo-Saxon countries

In the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France and Great Britain, people living at home are found virtually only in the group under the age of 30 (chart 3.2). People living at home have a much lower employment rate than the overall group aged 25-49 (chart 3.3).⁹ It is particularly men living with their parents who have a much lower score than men in other household situations: it is the family type with the lowest employment rate for men, and with the highest proportions of unemployed and inactive men (chart 3.4). Presumably, this unfavourable position on the labour market can be partly explained by the fact that after completing their studies, young men wait until they have a job and an income before leaving the parental home.

Of the women aged 25-49 there is a much smaller proportion who still live in the parental home (4% compared with 9% of men). As for men, their position on the labour market is rather poor. Because the labour market participation of women in other types of family is also limited, women living at home deviate from the average to a lesser extent than is the case for men (chart 3.3). For women, whether they have a job or not appears to be less of a determining factor in their decision to leave the parental home: in addition to the fact that far fewer women aged 25-29 still live with their parents, this population group does not reveal a concentration of unemployed and inactive people, as is the case for men (chart 3.4). Young women being unemployed or inactive are actually spread across different types of households.

In Ireland and Austria, the participation of women living at home in the labour market is comparable to the situation outlined above. However, in both countries, twice as many women aged 25-49 still live with their parents.

Southern Europe

In Spain, Greece, Italy and Portugal, one in four people aged 25-49 still live with parents (19% of women and 28% of men). The trend to continue to live in the parental home at a high age has increased in the last ten years: in the early 1990s only 17% of Southern Europeans between the ages of 25-49 lived with their parents. The majority of people aged 25-29 still live in the parental

⁹ Only the Netherlands deviates from this pattern.

home (60%) (chart 3.5). For all the age categories, men live at home much more often than women.

The strong growth in the number of young adults who continue to live with their parents after completing their studies is a recent phenomenon in Southern Europe. It was described as 'la famiglia prolungata', the prolonged family.¹⁰ One of the important reasons for young people to remain living at home is that this family situation provides greater (material and mental) freedom: young people living at home are less responsible for their own material needs and can defer the decision about 'what they want to do when they grow up' (Piccone Stella, 1997). Therefore, it is not surprising that the employment rate in this group is relatively low (chart 3.6). On the other hand, unemployment is extremely high amongst people living at home. The attitude of those living at home described above with regard to a career is only part of the explanation for the high rate of unemployment in this type of family. Conversely, unemployment also appears to be one of the structural reasons why young people in Southern Europe continue to live with their parents (Leccardi, 1999).

3.2 Living alone

People living alone is the fastest growing household type in the last ten years. The number of single people has particularly increased significantly amongst those aged 25-49. The increase in the age of marriage and the growing number of divorces and separations are given as the main causes of this evolution (Surkyn, 1999). Germany comes at the top with almost one in six (16%) adults between the ages of 25-49 living alone (table 2). In the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Austria and Great Britain, more than 10% of people aged 25-49 live alone. In the Southern European member states and Ireland, people between the ages of 25-49 live alone much less often. They do not account for more than 6% in any of these countries. Therefore these countries are left out of consideration in the description of this type of household.

Equality between the sexes in one-person households

The finding that there is an important distinction between the working situation of men and women in all types of family, young and old, runs like a thread through the analysis presented in this paper. Therefore it is surprising that this gap between the sexes does not appear to exist in the one-person household. However, in the six countries that were examined (the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Austria and Great Britain) men live in one-person households much more often than women (on average 16%, compared with 10%). The most important reason for this is that in the case of a divorce, the children usually stay with the mother. This means that men find themselves in a one-person household (for a while), while women are more often the head of a single-parent family.

The general position of single women between the ages of 25-49 on the labour market appears to be slightly more favourable than that of single men (chart 3.7): while the employment rate of both sexes is approximately equally high, the unemployment rate of single women is lower than that of single men in all the countries (except Austria). In Germany, France and Great Britain the employment rate of single women even surpasses that of single men. It is only with regard to part-time work, that we notice the traditional gap between the sexes: single women work part

¹⁰ Donati introduced the expression, 'the prolonged family' (Donati & Scabini, 1998).

time twice as often as single men. However, as part-time work is found only to a limited extent in this type of household (10%), the difference between the sexes is small expressed in absolute terms. Single men between the ages of 25-49 have a much less favourable position on the labour market than men in other types of family. For women, the situation is reversed: single women have a relatively positive position on the labour market, compared with women in other types of family.

Single men: in employment less often than men with a partner

For men (aged 25-49), the employment rate of people living alone is lowest of all the types of household, after those of men living at home (chart 3.8). The difference with the average employment rate of men is fairly large: from 6 percentage points in Germany and the Netherlands, up to as much as 14 percentage points in Belgium. Men living alone also reveal a negative pattern with regard to unemployment. In most countries, their unemployment rate is twice as high as the average rate for men (chart 3.9). The proportion of inactive amongst men living alone is also slightly higher than average. It becomes clear how important these findings are for the general employment situation of men aged 25-49 when we examine the representation of men living alone in the overall group of unemployed and inactive men (chart 3.10). In the six countries concerned, on average 28% of the male population between 25-49 who are unemployed consists of people living alone. 24% of inactive men are people living alone.

Women living alone: more active than others

For women, those who live alone, together with women in couples without children, are the types of household with the highest employment rate (chart 3.8). In most countries, employment for women aged 25-49 who live alone is at least ten percentage points higher than the average for women in this age category. By far the lowest proportion of inactive women is also found in the group that lives alone. With regard to unemployment, women living alone are around the average for women in most countries (chart 3.9): this means that the unemployment rate is high in a country like France and low in a country like the Netherlands.

Evolution

In most countries, the employment rate of men and women between the ages of 25-49 who live alone has remained stable in the course of the last ten years. However, the strong growth of the number of people in this type of household had an impact on the general evolution of the employment rate of people aged 25-49. For men, where there is a relatively low employment rate amongst those who live alone, the growth of people in this type of family had a negative effect on the overall male employment rate. For women, where people living alone have a relatively high employment rate, the growth of the number of people in this type of family resulted in the fact that the general employment rate of women increased.

3.3 Couples without children

Couples without children (living at home) are particularly common amongst people over the age of 50. In the last ten years, this type of household also became more important amongst people aged 25-49. Young adults (25-34) are particularly increasingly found in this stage before they have a family.

On average, almost one in six (17%) of people between the ages of 25-49 live with a partner without children, in the Netherlands, Germany, France and Great Britain (table 2). In the

Southern European countries, partners without children are limited to approximately 8% of the population aged 25-49. Belgium, Austria and Ireland are around the European average (approximately 12% of couples without children in the group aged 25-49).

3.3.1 'Mid-European' and Anglo-Saxon countries

In the 'mid-European' and Anglo-Saxon countries, the employment rate of adults aged 25-49 who live together with a partner without children is on average 88%. This figure conceals a significant gap between men and women: 83% of women in a couple without children are employed, while this is 92% for the men. However, this difference between the sexes is not as large for all the age categories. On the contrary, for young adults (aged 25-34), where couples without children are extremely common, the difference between the sexes in this type of household is limited, while the gap with regard to labour market participating gradually increases in the older age categories (chart 3.11). Because of the large differences in this type of household between younger adults (25-34) and that of people aged 35-49, we will look at the two age categories separately.

Young adults (25-34)

Young adults who live together with a partner but do not yet have children, are the most active population group on the labour market in the 'mid-European' and Anglo-Saxon countries (chart 3.12). Their employment rate is extremely high (approximately 90%), their unemployment rate is relatively low and the proportion of inactive people is very limited. Furthermore, people who are employed almost all have a full-time contract (approximately 90%).

For men, the positive labour market situation of this population group is only paralleled by the men with a partner and children. For women, it is only those who live alone who have a comparable positive employment position.

Therefore this stage of life, when people have completed their studies, left the parental home, found a partner, but do not yet have children, is a period at which the general participation in employment of men and women reaches a peak. In all the 'mid-European' and Anglo-Saxon countries, we find that when the couple have one or two children, the participation of men in the labour market remains extremely high, while that of women significantly declines.

Older adults (35-49)

In the older age categories the gap between the labour market participation of men and women who live in couples gradually increases. As we will see below, this trend continues in the over-50s. The employment rate of men in couples without children remains extremely high in all the age categories. However, for women in this type of family, the employment rate gradually declines per age category and the proportion of part-time work increases (chart 3.13). It is striking that most of the women in this type of household who are not employed no longer present themselves on the labour market; in other words, the share of inactive women increases with age; for 45-49 year-old women who live with a partner without children, the share of inactive women is as high as 20%. The lower labour market participation of women in couples without children as we reach a higher age category is mainly related to a generation effect. Older groups of women have lower employment rates since they are young, than following generations of women.

3.3.2 Southern Europe

In the Southern European countries we find that there is also an increase in the inequality between the sexes with age, in couples without children (chart 3.14). However, the difference with the other European countries is that there is already a large gap between the participation of men and women in employment in young couples. As in the rest of Europe, men in couples without children reach virtually complete employment. On the other hand, women in this type of household in Southern Europe are employed much less often than their sisters in the rest of Europe (67% compared with 83%). However, the proportion of the Southern European population aged 25-49 living in this type of household is limited (8%), so that the characteristics of employment for this group have a less far-reaching effect on the overall labour market situation of the female population. In addition, a positive trend has emerged in these countries as well, during the course of the 1990s: there has been a significant increase in the employment rate of women (aged 25-49) in couples without children.

3.4 Couples with children

Couples with children is the dominant type of household in the 25-49 age category. More than half of this age category lives with a partner and children. This peaks at 35-44, where 60-70% of the population find themselves in this type of household (chart 3.15). In Southern European countries, this peak is at a slightly older age (40-50), and is slightly higher (70% of the population). More than 80% of couples with children have one or two children.

The share of couples with children as a proportion of the population has fallen in the last ten years in almost every country. More and more adults opt to have fewer children or to remain childless (Eurostat, 1999a).

The gap between mothers and fathers

In all the European countries discussed here the couple with children is the type of family in which the gap between the sexes is largest: men living in this type of family reach almost full employment, while women account for a relatively low share of the people in employment (chart 3.16). Furthermore the gap between the sexes is larger and the position of women on the labour market is less favourable as the number of children in the household increases: men continue to have a very high employment rate, irrespective of the number of children, but for women the employment rate is lower and the unemployment rate gradually increases, as well as the proportion of inactive women and women working part time, when we consider a family type with a larger number of children.

The combination of being a mother and having a less favourable position on the labour market is a pattern which is strongest for young mothers (25-34). As the children grow older, women usually start to work more (Fagan & Warren, 2001). This means that the differences in the participation in employment between the various categories of households are much less prominent for women aged 35-49.

3.4.1 Young parents (25-34)

The above analysis reveals that in the 'mid-European' and Anglo-Saxon countries, young adults who have left the parental home, but do not yet have any children, have a strong position on the labour market. Young adults who live alone or in a couple are employed in more than 80-90% of

cases, and the difference between men and women in terms of participation in employment is limited. It is different for young parents: in this group there is a clear difference between the sexes with regard to participation in employment, which increases as there is a larger number of children (chart 3.17). The proportion of young mothers who work is significantly lower than the proportion of working women without children, and the female employment rate gradually decreases as there is a higher number of children: from an average of 73% of mothers with one child, to 61% with two children and 38% with three or more children. Men with children have a very strong presence on the labour market, with more than 90% working.

The other labour market indicators reinforce this picture. For mothers who work, the share of part-time work increases with the number of children. For example, of young mothers with two children only 25% still have a full-time job. The unemployment rate of young women with children is also relatively high and increases with the number of children.

In the Southern European countries, the same pattern is found for young adults, with the difference that the share of working mothers is on average 15 percentage points lower than in the other EU-11 countries (chart 3.18). On the other hand, the employment rate of men reaches the same high level as in the rest of EU-11. This means that the gap between young mothers and fathers on the labour market in Southern Europe is much larger than in the other countries.

The influence of policy

To some extent, one of the explanations for the national differences concerns the tax-related and social provisions. As the literature shows, the tax and social security systems can serve as incentives or have an inhibitory effect on the participation in employment of married women and mothers.¹¹ During the course of the last few decades, most European member states have evolved towards a tax system in which partners are taxed separately, partly to remove the obstacles to the second earner going to work. However, the effect of this should be seen in combination with specific measures benefiting families with children, the existing system of childcare and the regulations on maternal, paternal and parental leave. There is actually no clear link between these institutional factors and the participation of mothers in employment. The cultural patterns and the economic situation of a country or region are obviously also strong determining factors for the participation of women, and specifically mothers in employment. For example, in Belgium, the employment situation of young mothers in the Walloon Region is much less favourable than that of young mothers in the Flemish Region, despite the virtually identical tax-related and social measures in the two regions.

3.4.2 Parents aged 35-49

The most striking characteristic of women between the ages of 35-49 is that the differences between the types of family are limited (chart 3.19). The typical pattern of a lower employment rate for women with a higher number of children applies to a lesser extent than in the younger age category. Nevertheless, the presence of children continues to be related to a lower employment rate for women, and part-time work also increases for women as they have more children. The gap between men and women remains large in this age category and undeniably appears to be related to the presence of children.

¹¹ See OECD (2001) and Rubery (1998), pp. 194-256.

Older mothers work more often than younger mothers

In France, Germany and Great Britain, mothers aged 35-49 work more often than young mothers (72% compared with 61%) (chart 3.20). This also applies in the Netherlands, although to a much less pronounced degree (69% compared with 66%). In these countries the presence of mothers on the labour market appears to be strongly related to the age of the youngest child. Chart 3.21 shows that the employment rate of mothers with school-age children (aged 7-14) is significantly higher than that of mothers with non-school-age children (aged 3-6), and that for this last group it is in turn higher than that for mothers with children under the age of three. Some part of the inactive mothers in these countries appear to return to work when the children grow older.¹² This pattern is obviously related to the fact that older children require less care, and that schools count for an important childcare facility.¹³

Older mothers in Austria, Belgium and Portugal: small numbers of women returners

In Austria, Belgium as well as Portugal, the average participation of older mothers in employment (aged 35-49) is at approximately the same level as that of younger mothers (aged 25-34) (70% or more). In other words, the already high employment rate of young mothers does not increase in the older age category. On the one hand, this is related to a generation effect, viz. the fact that the employment of young mothers has increased extremely strongly in the last ten years in these countries. Obviously it is very difficult for the older age group, who entered the labour market on a much smaller scale, to equal this high employment rate of young women. On the other hand, the difference between Belgium, Austria and Portugal, on the one hand, and France, Germany and Great Britain on the other, is also related to a different pattern of women with (older) children returning to work. In the first group of countries, the employment of women stays at more or less the same level, irrespective of the age of the youngest child: inactive mothers do not return to the labour market when the children grow older.

In the other Southern European member states and in Ireland, the employment rate of mothers remains at a low level (less than 50%), even when the children have reached school age.

3.4.3 Three or more children

A minority of mothers between 25-49 have more than two children living at home (19% in EU-11). Only Ireland is a notorious exception to this (see part 1). The labour market position of women with more than two children is significantly less favourable in all the countries that were studied, and for every age category, than that of mothers with one or two children. Even in those countries where mothers with one or two children achieve a relatively high employment rate, the share of mothers with three or more children who work is no higher than 50% or 60%. Furthermore, of those mothers with three or more children who work, fewer than half have a full-time job; this means that they are the type of family with the highest percentage of part-time work. Finally, the unemployment rate of women with three or more children is also at a relatively high level.

¹² Figures on women returners in the sense of the number of women who return to work after a break of a few years (because they are caring for their family) are limited and are mainly concentrated on the months before and after the birth; for example, see Schippers (2003) for the Netherlands, Engelbrech et al (2001) for Germany and Gutierrez Domenech (2002) for a comparison of Spain, Belgium, France, Italy and Sweden.

¹³ On the different childcare possibilities and school systems in Europe, see Rubery (1998), pp. 234-240.

In general, the more children they have, the more difficult it is for mothers to combine looking after the family with a job. A supportive tax and social security system, appropriate social measures and favourable working conditions have a positive influence on the participation of mothers in employment to some extent, but the effect of government measures is substantially less significant after the third child (Bernhardt, 2000, p.9).

3.3.4 Evolution

In the last ten years, the position of men aged 25-49 on the labour market has been fairly constant. From the perspective of their family situation, the position of adult women (25-49) on the labour market has been subject to noticeable changes during the course of the 1990s.

The further they were behind, the more they have caught up

In the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and France, it is possible to identify a clear pattern in the evolution of female employment in terms of types of family: the more the type of family was underrepresented on the labour market, the greater the improvement in the course of the last ten years (chart 3.22). Therefore the general increase in the employment rate of women in the course of the 1990s particularly benefited women in family situations where the segregation was greatest: viz. women with children and to a lesser extent, women in couples without children. Furthermore, the increase was greater in the households with more children living at home. This not only meant that the gap between men and women in all the types of households was reduced, but also that for women, the gap between the different family situations became smaller. Nevertheless, in 2000 in the above-mentioned group of countries, the difference in the employment rate between men and women (aged 25-49) is still 17 percentage points (89% compared with 71%) and between mothers and fathers the difference stays as high as 26 percentage points (93% compared with 67%).

In the other member states (Southern Europe, Great Britain and Ireland),¹⁴ the increase in the employment rate of women with children was much less prominent in the course of the 1990s (chart 3.23). This means that the gap between men and women on the labour market remains large.

3.5 Single-parent families

Together with one-person households, the single-parent family is the fastest growing type of family in the age category 25-49. On average, one in ten women between 25-49 in the 'mid-European' and Anglo-Saxon countries are the head of a single-parent family. In Southern Europe, this is 4%.

A diverse group

Single parents between 25-49 are a diverse group: in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and France, they are often married women who are alone after a divorce and have custody of the children. In the Anglo-Saxon countries there is also a relatively large group of young mothers who have never been married and do not live with a partner. Next to this, there are quite a large

¹⁴ No data were available on the evolution in Austria.

number of widows amongst the single parents. This type of single parent family is represented strongly in the Southern European countries (Martin & Vion, 2002).

Vulnerable single-parent families

The participation in employment of single mothers differs significantly from country to country. The Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain and Ireland are countries where single-parent families are clearly in a vulnerable position on the labour market. The employment rate of women who are the head of a single-parent family is significantly lower than the average for women in this age category, and also lower than that of mothers who are living with a partner (chart 3.22). Furthermore the unemployment rate in this type of household is high: from 13% in Great Britain to 24% in Belgium (chart 3.23). According to a comparative European study, a large proportion of single-parent families in these countries obtain their income from social security payments (Martin & Vion, 2002).

Active single parent families

In France, Germany and Austria, the number of single mothers who work is at a relatively high level (70% or more) (chart 3.22). This means that it is at least equal to the employment rate of mothers with one or two children. On the other hand, there are also very high unemployment rates for this type of family in France and Germany (14% and 18% respectively) (chart 3.23).

Widows

As the majority of single parents in Southern Europe are widows, the single-parent families in these countries tends to have an older age pattern than in the rest of Europe. In comparison with the women in other types of households, single mothers in Southern Europe are in a relatively positive labour market position. They are more often employed than the average female population and also more often than mothers living with a partner (chart 3.24). In addition, more than eight out of ten work full time. Furthermore, single mothers in Southern Europe have an unemployment rate which is slightly lower than the average for women in these countries (chart 3.23).

Single mothers in a trap?

In most European countries, the unemployment rate amongst single mothers is very high. In this respect, reference is often made to the unemployment trap confronting this type of household in particular (Rubery et al., 1998, pp. 215-220). This trap applies when the costs of mobility and childcare do not weigh up against the financial advantage of a job, compared with unemployment benefit. On the other hand, recent studies have emphasised that the risk of poverty in single-parent families is twice as high as for the average household, and that even a paid job is not a way out of poverty for many single-parent families (Martin & Vion, 2002 and Forssén & Hakovirta, 2000).

3.6 Conclusion

Men and women between the ages of 25-49 are the most active age category on the labour market. However, at the start of the twenty-first century, there is still a strong gap with regard to the labour market participation of mothers and the rest of the population. Two out of three women who are inactive in the age category 25-49 are women with children.

To summarise, the position of men and women aged 35-49 on the labour market, depending on the family situation they are living in, is as follows.

People who live alone are the most gender-neutral group, with hardly any difference between the employment situation of men and women. In this type of household, the unemployment rate of women is sometimes even lower than that of men. Men who live alone, a strongly increasing population group, are overrepresented in unemployment and inactivity.

From the time that men and women marry or start cohabiting, there is a gap between the participation of the two sexes in the labour market. In the member states discussed here, the employment rate of men in couples without children is on average 12 percentage points higher than that of women (92% compared with 80%) while the unemployment rate is 2 percentage points lower (4% compared with 6%). For couples with children, this gap systematically increases: for couples with one child, the difference in the employment rate between men and women is 25 percentage points (93% compared with 68%), for couples with two children, it is 33 percentage points (94% compared with 61%), and for couples with three or more children, it is 41 percentage points (89% compared with 48%). The difference in unemployment rates also increases with the number of children.

A clearly favourable evolution is the fact that in most European countries the gap on the labour market between men and women, particularly between mothers and fathers, decreased significantly in the course of the 1990s. We even find that the more the types of household have fallen behind on the labour market, the greater the improvement during the course of the last decade.

Finally, there are the people still living at home and the single-parent family. For the people living at home, the gap between the two sexes is relatively small. Women who still live at home have a position on the labour market which corresponds to the average for their age category. However, for men, the group that lives at home are the type of household with the lowest employment rate (74%) and the highest unemployment rate (13%). In the Southern European countries in particular, there is a big increase in the number of people who continue to live with their parents up to an older age. Together with men living alone, those who remain in the parental home are a growing population group characterised by a relatively poor employment situation (low employment and high unemployment).

In contrast with the other types of household there is no uniform pattern in the employment situation of single mothers in the various European member states. In the South European countries and Austria, single mothers achieve an employment rate which is higher than that of women in most other types of household, while in countries such as the Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain and Ireland the employment level of single-parent families is amongst the lowest of all types of household. However, their high unemployment rate is a transnational characteristic of single-parent families.

4. Older people between 50 and 65: from work to pension (table 5)

In 2000, about half of the older population (50-64) is still active on the labour market. On average, the employment rate in this age range is 48% in the 11 member states that were examined, varying from 38% in Belgium and Italy to 60% in Great Britain (chart 4.1). In most countries the unemployment rate is low amongst the over-50s. The older group is also the age category where the difference in the participation in employment between men and women is largest. On

average, six out of ten older men are in employment (60%), compared with less than four in ten of older women (37%). The employment rate of older people declines significantly with every five-year age group (chart 4.2): while an average of 69% of people aged 50-54 are still in employment, employment amongst 50-59 year-olds is 50% and amongst 60 to 64-year-olds it is 22%. This pattern is found in every type of family, both for men and women, and in each of the 11 member states.

Analysis divided into five-year age categories

At the same time, the types of household are very unevenly divided across the different five-year age categories. For example, the share of couples with children declines significantly between the ages of 50 and 64, while the share of couples without children increases strongly. This means that the employment situation of a particular type of household can deviate from the average situation for this type of household of the over-50s with every five-year age category. Therefore in the analysis of older people we often look at the employment situation for every five-year age category rather than at the total group of 50-64 year-olds.

4.1 Living alone

12% of the population aged 50-64 in EU-11 lives alone, without a partner or children living at home (table 2). Older women live alone more often than older men (14% compared with 10%). In the Southern European countries an average of 7% of over-50s live in these types of household. In the other EU-11 countries, the share amounts to 15%. In most countries, the share of this type of household has slightly increased for older people in the course of the 1990s.

The gap between the sexes remains small

As for the younger age groups, the gap between the sexes is smallest for older people in the household category of people living alone. On average in the EU-11, employment of older men and women living alone is respectively 49% and 39%. As in the other household categories, the share of people who are employed falls significantly with every five-year age group.

As for women aged 25-49, older women living alone have a higher employment rate than women in other types of households (chart 4.3). On the other hand, the position on the labour market of older men living alone is much less favourable than for the other household categories (chart 4.4). Not only is the employment rate of men living alone rather low, but their unemployment rate is twice as high as the male average for this age category (14% compared with 7% in EU-11) (chart 4.5).

Men living alone: an unfavourable employment position for young and older men

The poor labour market characteristics of men living alone is not found only in older men. In many EU-11 countries, we also found that men of 25-49 living alone are in a remarkably unfavourable situation on the labour market. We conclude that the group of men living alone, which is a growing population group, is the most vulnerable type of household in the male population.

4.2 Couples without children

The most common type of household amongst people aged 50-64 is a couple without children living at home. On average, four out of ten older people in EU-11 live in this type of household.

In the 'mid-European' and Anglo-Saxon countries, approximately half of the over-50s live with a partner without children. Because children continue to live with their parents for much longer in Southern European countries, the share of older people in this type of household is limited there to about 20%.

Patterns comparable to younger age categories

The participation of older women in the labour market follows the same pattern as in the younger age categories: women without children are employed more often than women with children. However, with age the differences between women with and without children become significantly smaller (chart 4.6). For older men, participation in the labour market also follows the same pattern as in the younger age categories: men without children are employed slightly less often than men with children. With age the differences between men with and without children become larger (chart 4.7).

As a result, the difference between the participation in employment of men and women who live in couples without children increases significantly with age. The gap between the sexes in this type of household reaches a peak for people aged 50-59: in the 'mid-European' countries and Great Britain the employment rate of men is approximately 20 percentage points higher than that of women; in the Southern European countries and Ireland, this difference even increases to 40 percentage points.

Evolution

There has been a modest increase in older couples without children in all the 'mid-European' and Anglo-Saxon countries. Meanwhile, the share of couples with children has declined proportionately. The explanation for this evolution can be found in the fall in the number of children per family, with the consequence that parents are becoming younger at the point that the children leave the parental home. The high proportion of older people in couples without children means that changes in the participation in employment of this type of household have a large impact on the overall participation in employment of the population aged between 50 and 64.

In all the 'mid-European' and Anglo-Saxon countries the employment rate of women in older couples without children increased during the 1990s. This is partly the result of the increasing participation of every younger generation of women. In a number of countries this increase was significant (Belgium, the Netherlands), though in other countries this increase was only just noticeable (Germany, France, Great Britain).

In contrast with the situation amongst women, there has been hardly any increase in the share of employed older men who live in a couple without children. In some countries this share even declined. Knowing that this employment rate is significantly lower than average in all the countries concerned, we conclude that the growth of this type of family had a slightly negative effect on the evolution of the general employment rate of older men.

4.3 Couples with children

In the 11 European member states concerned, on average one in three older people live with a partner and children. This share falls significantly for every five-year age group: from 47% for people aged 50-54 to 21% for people aged 60-64. Men who are generally slightly older than their

partner, and are therefore older when the children leave home, live in this type of family more often than women when they are aged 50-64 (40% compared with 29%).

The differences in living patterns between Southern European and other European countries are once again striking in this type of household: in 'mid-Europe' and Great Britain, on average one in four older people live with a partner and children; in Southern Europe and Ireland it is twice as many.

We find the following patterns for men and women in almost all the EU-11 countries. As for younger women, women with a partner and children in the 50-54 age category are employed less often than women in other types of households (chart 4.8). However, the gap between women in couples with children and couples without children is not as big as for the younger age categories. In the following age categories (55-59 and 60-64), the employment rate of women falls significantly and this gap is reduced even further.

For men, the pattern is reversed. Men between 50 and 54 who live with a partner and children, like men in the younger age categories, are employed more often than men without children (chart 4.9). This difference is even bigger in the following age categories. The pattern of people leaving employment amongst men who still have children at home is less pronounced than for men without children living at home.

The gap between the sexes at its greatest

Because the employment rate of women in older couples with children is very low, while that of men is relatively high, the gap between the sexes is biggest in this type of household. On average, the share of men in employment in EU-11 is twice as high as that of women in employment (70% compared with 37%) (chart 4.10).

Evolution

In the 'mid-European' countries and Great Britain, the share of older couples with children fell during the 1990s. As indicated above, the explanation for this is the fall in the number of children per family. In the Southern European countries the share of older couples with children has increased. The most important explanation for this is the trend for children to continue living with their parents up to an older age.

For older men in couples with children, the employment rate remained stable in most EU-11 countries during the 1990s. The employment of women in this type of family also only increased slightly in most EU-11 member states. Only Belgium and the Netherlands saw a significant increase. In order to see these evolutions in a context, it is necessary to take into account the rate of the feminisation of the labour market in the various countries.

The feminisation of the labour market

Because of the large-scale entry of women into the labour market in most European countries during the second half of the twentieth century, the employment rate of women increased in stages during the last few decades: each generation of women who reach working age participate more actively in the labour market than the previous generation, and consequently there is a systematic increase in the overall employment of women.

In Belgium and the Netherlands the difference between the employment rate of women between 1990 and 2000 is greatest for women aged 40-54 (chart 4.11). In the space of ten years, the share of women employed in this age category increased by 15-20 percentage points. For the younger age groups, the generation effect on employment rates has systematically declined: the difference in employment between the present 25-29 year-olds and the 25-29 year-olds in 1990 is much smaller than in the older age categories, which means that the generation effect is gradually disappearing in the younger age groups.

In the Southern European countries, the biggest differences between generations apply for a slightly younger age group (chart 4.12). On the other hand, in Germany, France and Great Britain, the share of employed women in most age categories is hardly any higher in 2000 than it was ten years ago: the generation effect on the overall employment of women has already largely faded out there (chart 4.13).

The significant increase in the overall employment rate of older women in Belgium and the Netherlands is therefore primarily related to the fact that the effect of the feminisation of the labour market is particularly clearly visible in the older age categories in 2000. The virtual stabilisation of the employment of older women in the other countries is explained by the fact that feminisation in the older age categories has already largely come to an end, or is not yet visible.

In Belgium and in the Netherlands, where the participation of older women increased significantly between 1990 and 2000, it is mainly older women *with children* who saw a strong increase in their employment rate. In the other countries the growth in the employment of older women with children was rather limited.

4.4. Single-parent families

In Southern Europe, 8% of women between the ages of 50 and 64 are the head of a single-parent family. These are mainly widowed mothers with slightly older children still living at home. In the other EU-11 countries, only 4-5% of older women are single women with children living at home.

Older women who are the head of a single-parent family are in paid employment relatively often. Together with single women without children living at home, they have the highest employment rate of older women. On average, 62% of single mothers aged 50-54 in EU-11 are employed, and for those aged 55-59 the employment rate is 42%. In most EU-11 countries the employment rate of older single mothers increased slightly during the 1990s.

4.5 Conclusion

An employment rate which falls strongly with age is characteristic of the over-50s in all the EU-11 countries, both for men and for women, and in all the types of household. This is partly why the overall employment rate of older people is very low in most countries: 60% for men and 37% for women.

In the 'mid-European' countries and Great Britain, older people without children living at home are in the majority: 50% live with a partner without children, 15% live alone. In Southern Europe and Ireland, where children remain in the parental home longer, 58% of the over-50s still have children living at home (52% with a partner and 5% as the head of a single-parent family).

In most EU-11 countries, the patterns of participation in employment in the various types of family are comparable to those for the younger age categories. For women, those who live with a partner and children are employed less often than women without children. As in the other age categories, single women without children are the most active women in all EU-11 countries;¹⁵ for the over-50s, this group is joined by single mothers who achieve a relatively high employment rate. For older men the situation is reversed: in the first place, men with children are employed more often than men without children, and in the second place, single men (without children) are the weakest type of family in the labour market.

Nevertheless, there are also differences with the younger age categories: in the first place, the employment rate of women falls very strongly from the age category of 50-54, and of men from the age category 55-59. This means that the employment rate of older men and women is significantly lower in all the types of family than that of 25-49 year-olds. On average the difference between the two age groups in EU-11 is almost 30 percentage points.

The second difference with the younger age categories concerns older people living with a partner: for women, the gap between those with and those without children gradually disappears in the older age categories; however, for men, this gap which was very limited in the 25-49 age category constantly increases as they get older.

Finally, the gap between the sexes is a lot larger for older people than in the younger age categories. For the over-50s, people living alone are the group with the smallest difference between women and men. On the other hand, in couples, the decline in the employment rate with every five-year age category is generally greater for women than for men. This means that the difference between the sexes in this type of family becomes very large. For older people in couples with children it is the most pronounced: on average, the share of employed men in this type of household in EU-11 is twice as high as that of women.

5. Conclusion

As in the rest of the industrialised world, the participation of women in employment has increased in the last ten years in most of the countries of the European Union.¹ The change in the participation of women is accompanied by essential changes in the organisation of family life. Not only are women more inclined to work when they have children than they were in the past, they also have fewer children. Men and women are postponing marriage and stay on their own, or remain childless more often. Furthermore, marriage is no longer a condition for having children, and a growing number of children are born in single-parent families or to an unmarried couple (Rubery, 1999). The family structure itself also has a shorter life: men and women separate more often and after an intermediate stage, commit themselves to new patterns of living together. In short, there is a greater diversity in the composition of households, and when individuals organise their family life during the course of their lives they do so according to an increasingly varied pattern.

¹⁵ This is not apparent from the figures for the total group of women aged 50-64, but is apparent from the separate five-year age categories.

¹ Except in countries which already had an extremely high participation of women at the start of the 1990s: Denmark, Finland and Sweden.

The subject of this paper is the way in which the type of family of men and women in Europe is related to their participation in the labour market. Whether men and women are available for the labour market depends on the demands of their family situation: is a paid job a financial necessity, or is it possible to rely on the income of other family members? Is the care of the household a full-time activity, or is it more advantageous to go out to work and contract out some of the tasks? However, the link between the type of family and the participation in employment is not a one-way process. For younger age categories particularly, the employment situation can have an influence on the choice for a particular type of family situation. For example, having a job or not can be a reason or an obstacle to leaving the parental home or for the decision to start a family. People sometimes postpone having children until they feel secure about their income from employment, or they limit the number of children, so that a (part-time or full-time) professional career remains possible.

For most people, there is a permanent interaction between their situation in the labour market and their household situation between the ages of 15 and 65, the so-called working age. Policy can try to intervene in this process at certain times, and can sometimes attempt to support particular developments, such as increasing the participation of women in employment by means of particular measures. Despite the large national differences in policy, but also in traditions, social organisation and economic development, we found that there were very similar patterns in the eleven European member states that were examined (EU-11) with regard to the way in which individuals in a particular type of family participate in the labour market. However, there is often a dividing line between the 'mid-European' countries (the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France and Austria) and Great Britain on the one hand, and Southern Europe (Spain, Italy, Greece and Portugal), on the other hand, Ireland revealing more similarities with the latter.

5.1 Young people (15-24)

Types of family

On average, approximately 80% of young people still live in the parental home in the eleven European member states (EU-11). In Southern European countries it is slightly more (90%), and in the 'mid-European' countries and Great Britain it is slightly less (72%). Only two other types of household are relevant for young people aged 15-24: people living alone and couples (both without children). Other family types hardly exist amongst people aged 15-24. In the Netherlands, Germany, France and Great Britain, on average 8% of young people live alone, and 8% in a couple without children. In Southern European countries and Ireland, there are hardly any young people living alone or in couples. Austria and Belgium are between these two groups of countries, with approximately 4% to 5% of young people living alone and 4% to 5% in couples.

During the course of the last ten years there have only been slight shifts in the profile of the types of family positions of young people. In most countries, the already high percentage of young people living with their parents has increased slightly. At the same time, there has been an increase in the proportion of young people living alone. Couples have become much less popular amongst young people in the last ten years.

Participation in the labour market

The employment rate of young people in Europe is low (39%). This low employment rate is only found in young people living in the parental home. This is explained by the fact that most of them are still studying. As young people living at home form by far the largest group in this

population, their situation with regard to employment determines that for the overall group of young people. As long as they are still living with their parents, the employment rate of young people is low, but when they have left the parental home and are living alone or with a partner, they achieve a much higher employment rate (respectively 59% and 77% in EU-11).

In most of the countries that were studied, youth employment fell during the course of the 1990s. This fall is concentrated almost exclusively in one type of family, viz., the young people who live at home, where conversely, the proportion of students has increased. At the same time, the proportion of young people still living at home has increased slightly everywhere in the last ten years. So young people study for longer and also continue to live with their parents for longer.

Although the pattern of participation in employment of young people in relation to their type of family is similar in every European country, there appear to be large national differences in the total employment level of 15-24 year-olds. These differences are closely related to the extent to which young people are able to combine their studies with a job. For example, the relatively high youth employment rate in the Netherlands, Germany, Austria and Great Britain (55%) is due to the fact that in these countries many students have a (part-time) job. The fact that it is not common for students in Belgium and France to have a job is the main explanation for the low youth employment rate in those countries. In Greece, Italy and Spain, however, the group of young people living at home also includes a large number of unemployed and inactive people, which is a second explanation of the low youth employment rate in these countries.

5.2 Adults aged 25-49

Types of family

The dominant type of household in the age category 25-49 consists of couples with children. More than half of the adults live together with a partner and children. Moreover, more than 80% of these couples have only one or two children. In almost all countries the share of couples with children in the population as a whole has declined in the last ten years. More and more adults opt to have fewer children, or to remain childless.

The one-person household and the single-parent family are the fastest growing types of household in the age category 25-49. The increase in the number of divorces and separations is the main cause of this evolution. On average, 10% of 25-49 year-olds in EU-11 live alone. Germany comes top, with almost one in six adults (16%) living alone. In the Southern European member states and Ireland, the share of the adult population living alone is not more than 6%. Of the 25-49 year-olds who are the head of a single-parent family 88% are women. In 2000, in the 'mid-European' and Anglo-Saxon countries, one in ten women between the ages of 25 and 49 is a single mother; in Southern Europe this type of family is limited to 4% of the women.

The share of couples without children is also increasing amongst 25-49 year-olds, though only slightly. Young adults particularly (25-34) are increasingly found to be in this stage, before having a family. In 'mid-Europe', on average almost one in six (17%) of people aged 25-49 live together with a partner without children. In the Southern European countries, couples without children are limited to approximately 8% of adults.

Finally, in the Southern European countries, on average one in four people between the ages of 25 and 49 still live with their parents. In the other EU-11 countries the share of this type of household is limited to 6% of 25-49 year-olds.

Participation in the labour market

Men and women between the ages of 25 and 49 are the most active age group on the labour market. Their employment rate averages at 77% in EU-11. However, not all adults between the ages of 25 and 49 have a paid job. The most important dividing line is still between women with children and the rest of the population. Two out of three people who are not working in the age category 25-49 are women with children living at home. When they do have work, women with children have a part-time job in 50% of cases.

Nevertheless, the analysis shows that this traditional pattern should increasingly be seen in relative terms. In the first place, the employment rate of mothers continues to increase much more strongly than in other population groups. Meanwhile, 'new' types of family have developed in other ranges of the population, with more and more people who are in a decidedly unfavourable labour market position on: men who live alone and single mothers are prominent in this respect.

People who live alone are the most gender-neutral group, with hardly any difference between the employment situation of men and women. In fact, the unemployment rate of women in this type of household is sometimes even lower than that of men. Men who live alone, a population group that is growing significantly, are overrepresented in unemployment and inactivity. Taking the significant growth of this type of household in the 1990s into account, men who live alone can be characterised as a growing, high risk group.

From the moment that men and women marry or live together, there is a gap between the participation of the two sexes in the labour market. In the member states concerned here, the employment rate of men in couples without children is on average 12 percentage points higher than that of women (92% compared with 80%) and the unemployment rate is two percentage points lower (4% compared with 6%). For couples with children, this gap gradually increases: for couples with one child, the difference in the employment rate between men and women is 25 percentage points, for couple with two children it is 33 percentage points, and for couples with three or more children, it is 41 percentage points. The difference in the unemployment rate also increases with the number of children.

The fact that the gap on the labour market between men and women, and particularly between mothers and fathers, decreased significantly during the course of the 1990s in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France, Great Britain and Ireland, is clearly a positive evolution. We even find that the more a particular type of household has fallen behind on the labour market, the greater the improvement in the last ten years. In the Southern European countries this evolution was much less pronounced.

Finally, there are those who still live at home, and single-parent families. For men, living with their parents is the type of household with the lowest employment rate (74%) and the highest unemployment rate (13%). Women who still live at home achieve an employment rate which is around the average for women. The number of people who continue to live with their parents up

to an older age is particularly increasing in the Southern European countries. Together with men who live alone, those who remain in the parental home constitute a growing population group that is characterised by a relatively unfavourable labour market situation (low employment and high unemployment).

In contrast with the other types of household, there is no uniform pattern in the employment situation of single mothers in the various European member states. In member states such as Austria and the Southern European countries, single mothers achieve an employment rate which is higher than that of women in most other household situations, while in countries such as Ireland, Great Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium, the employment level of single-parent families is one of the lowest of all the types of household. The high unemployment rate, however, is a transnational characteristic of single-parent families.

5.3 Older people (50-64)

Types of family

The most common type of household for people aged 50-64 is the couple without children living at home. In the 'mid-European' countries and Great Britain, about half of the over-50s live together with a partner without children. In the Southern European countries and Ireland, the share of older people living in this type of household is limited to about 20%. Conversely, on average only one in four older people in 'mid-Europe' and Great Britain live together with a partner and children. In Southern Europe and Ireland, these figures are doubled.

There is a clear, if modest, growth in the number of couples without children in the older people of all the 'mid-European' countries. Meanwhile, the number of older couples with children is declining. The explanation for this evolution lies in the fall in the number of children per family, so that parents are becoming younger at the point that all their children have left the parental home. The opposite evolution is taking place in the Southern European countries, where the share of older couples with children increased in the 1990s, while the share of couples without children decreased. The most important reason for this is the trend for children to continue living with their parents for longer and longer.

Many older people in Europe live alone, without a partner or children: 15% of the over-50s in the 'mid-European' countries and Great Britain, and 7% in Southern Europe.

Finally, 8% of older women are the head of a single-parent family in Southern Europe. These are mainly widowed mothers with slightly older children living at home. In the 'mid-European' countries and Great Britain, 4-5% of women between 50 and 64 are single mothers.

Participation in the labour market

Approximately half of the older population in Europe (aged 50-64) is still active on the labour market: the employment rate varies from 38% in Belgium and Italy to 60% in Great Britain. In most countries the employment rate of the over-50s is low. The difference in the participation in employment between men and women is greatest in the age category of older people. On average, six out of ten older men are employed (60%), compared with less than four out of ten older women (37%). The employment rate of older people declines significantly for every five-year age category: for women, the employment rate falls very strongly from the age category 50-

54, for men from 55-59. This pattern is found in all the eleven member states and is also the predominant characteristic in every type of family.

In most EU-11 countries, the patterns with regard to the participation in employment of older men and women are comparable to those in the younger age categories. Women with a partner and children living at home are employed less often than women without children. Older women living alone are the most active in this group, as well as the single mothers over 50 who have a relatively high employment rate. For older men, the situation is reversed: men with children are employed more often than men without children, and single men are the type of family with the weakest position in the labour market.

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Appendix 1 Types of household

The population is divided into eight types of household:

1. **living alone:** a person who lives in a household consisting of one person;
2. **living with parents:** a person who lives with (one of) the parents, one of the parents is the reference person in the household;
3. **living with a partner ('couples'):** a person who lives with his or her partner (married or unmarried); the household comprises two people;
4. **living with a partner and one child ('couple with 1 child'):** a person who lives with his or her partner (married or unmarried) and his or her child (or a child of the partner); the household comprises three people and that person or his/her partner is the reference person in the household;
5. **living with a partner and two children ('couple with 2 children'):** a person who lives with his or her partner (married or unmarried) and his or her two children (or children of the partner); the household comprises four people and that person or his/her partner is the reference person in the household;
6. **living with a partner and three or more children ('couple with 3+ children'):** a person who lives with his or her partner (married or unmarried) and his or her three or more children (or children of the partner); the household exclusively comprises the couple and these children, and the person or partner is the reference person in the household;
7. **single with children ('single-parent families'):** a person who lives in a household which consists exclusively of him or herself and his or her child(ren); the person is the reference person in the household;
8. **others:** all people who do not fall into category 1-7.

The indication of the family relationship ('parent' – 'child') is not related to the age of the children; children of the partner are also considered as 'children'. Both married and unmarried partners are considered to be 'partners'. All the categories, except for the 'others', are pure types of households, i.e., no other person is part of the household except for those indicated in the category. For example, parents in the case of a couple with two children living at home fall under category 5. When one of the children leaves home, the parents fall under category 4. If the family also includes a grandmother living in the home, all the members of the family fall under category 8.

Appendix 2 Tables

Source of all tables: Eurostat LFS (Processing Steunpunt WAV)

Table 1

Classification of the population (aged 15-64), in terms of type of household and gender (EU-11; 2000*)

	EU-11	Bel- gium	Germa- ny	France	Greece	Great Britain	Ireland	Italy	the Nether- lands	Austria	Portu- gal	Spain
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Total 15-64 years												
Living with parents	22	17	16	18	29	16	27	30	15	20	29	35
Living alone	10	10	15	12	6	11	6	6	13	11	3	3
With partner	19	18	26	22	14	23	11	11	29	19	10	9
With partner & 1 child	15	14	16	15	16	13	9	18	13	15	20	14
With partner & 2 child.	17	15	15	16	20	15	14	20	17	16	18	20
With partner & 3+ child.	7	7	5	8	5	7	16	6	7	6	5	8
Single-parent	4	4	3	4	2	6	3	3	3	4	3	2
Other	7	14	5	5	9	9	14	7	1	10	12	10
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Women 15-64 years												
Living with parents	19	16	13	15	24	13	23	26	12	17	27	32
Living alone	9	9	13	11	6	10	5	5	12	10	3	3
With partner	20	19	28	23	15	24	11	12	31	20	10	10
With partner & 1 child	16	14	16	15	17	13	10	19	14	15	20	15
With partner & 2 child.	17	15	15	15	20	14	14	21	18	16	18	20
With partner & 3+ child.	7	7	5	8	5	6	16	6	7	6	5	8
Single-parent	6	6	6	7	4	10	6	5	5	6	5	4
Other	7	13	5	5	9	8	15	7	1	10	12	10
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Men 15-64 years												
Living with parents	24	19	18	21	33	19	30	33	17	23	32	37
Living alone	11	11	16	13	5	12	7	6	15	12	2	3
With partner	18	17	25	21	12	23	10	10	28	18	9	8
With partner & 1 child	15	14	16	15	16	14	9	18	13	14	20	14
With partner & 2 child.	17	15	15	16	20	15	13	20	17	16	18	20
With partner & 3+ child.	7	7	5	8	5	7	16	6	7	6	6	8
Single-parent	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other	7	15	5	6	8	9	14	6	1	10	12	9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Table 2

Classification of the population (aged 15-64), in terms of type of household and age (EU-11; 2000*)

	EU-11	Bel- gium	Germa- ny	France	Greece	Great Britain	Ireland	Italy	the Nether- lands	Austria	Portu- gal	Spain
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Total 15-24 years												
Living with parents	79	78	75	74	84	68	74	92	72	80	84	92
Living alone	6	4	10	9	6	5	2	1	11	5	1	0
With partner	5	4	7	9	2	7	2	1	12	5	3	1
With partner & 1 child	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	2	2	2	4	1
With partner & 2 child.	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
With partner & 3+ child.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Single-parent	1	1	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other	6	12	4	4	7	14	19	4	2	7	8	5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total 25-49 years												
Living with parents	12	5	7	6	23	6	12	23	4	11	18	26
Living alone	10	10	16	12	5	11	6	6	13	12	2	3
With partner	14	12	17	15	9	17	11	9	24	13	6	8
With partner & 1 child	18	18	20	19	17	15	10	20	16	17	25	16
With partner & 2 child.	25	24	23	25	28	23	20	26	27	23	27	28
With partner & 3+ child.	10	12	8	13	8	11	24	7	12	8	8	9
Single-parent	4	5	5	5	2	8	4	2	4	4	3	2
Other	6	14	4	5	8	8	12	7	1	10	11	8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total 50-64 years												
Living with parents	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	2
Living alone	12	14	15	14	7	15	11	9	15	13	5	5
With partner	40	43	53	47	30	48	22	20	54	40	26	17
With partner & 1 child	19	14	15	17	25	16	18	26	16	18	24	22
With partner & 2 child.	11	7	6	7	18	7	15	22	8	9	15	21
With partner & 3+ child.	4	3	2	3	4	2	14	7	3	3	5	12
Single-parent	4	3	3	3	4	3	5	6	3	4	5	5
Other	9	16	5	7	11	8	14	10	1	12	19	16
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Table 3

Employment rate of young people (aged 15-24), in terms of type of household and gender (EU-11; 2000*)

	EU-11	Bel- gium	Germa- ny	France	Greece	Great Britain	Ireland	Italy	the Nether- lands	Austria	Portu- gal	Spain
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Total 15-24 years												
Living with parents	35	19	40	21	27	55	36	24	66	49	39	31
Living alone	59	55	67	43	-	65	-	-	73	67	-	-
With partner	77	77	79	69	-	87	-	-	87	75	-	-
With partner & children	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Single-parent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	45	54	56	27	27	49	43	37	65	55	48	37
Total	39	27	46	28	27	55	38	26	68	53	43	32
Women 15-24 years												
Living with parents	30	15	35	15	22	53	31	20	63	44	33	25
Living alone	58	57	70	41	-	64	-	-	74	62	-	-
With partner	74	74	77	66	-	86	-	-	85	80	-	-
With partner & children	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Single-parent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	41	47	54	24	19	49	45	32	64	48	39	31
Total	36	24	44	25	22	53	36	21	67	49	38	26
Men 15-24 years												
Living with parents	39	23	44	26	31	56	40	29	68	54	44	36
Living alone	59	54	65	46	-	65	-	-	72	72	-	-
With partner	83	84	82	76	-	90	-	-	92	64	-	-
With partner & children	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Single-parent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	48	60	58	30	38	50	40	42	66	63	56	42
Total	43	30	49	31	32	57	41	30	70	57	48	37

* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Table 4

Employment rate of the population (aged 25-49), in terms of type of household and gender (EU-11; 2000*)

	EU-11	Belgium	Germany	France	Greece	Great Britain	Ireland	Italy	the Netherlands	Austria	Portugal	Spain
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Total 25-49 years												
Living with parents	70	62	75	67	73	79	77	64	87	80	77	69
Living alone	83	75	83	81	83	80	77	85	87	88	86	86
With partner	86	83	87	84	73	91	85	80	91	86	86	81
With partner & 1 child	80	84	82	85	71	85	74	73	83	86	87	72
With partner & 2 child.	77	84	79	82	70	84	68	66	82	82	85	67
With partner & 3+ child.	67	73	69	69	66	73	58	56	75	74	75	58
Single-parent	66	62	71	72	67	54	45	71	62	85	80	70
Other	75	80	80	74	74	77	71	67	82	81	80	70
Total	77	79	80	79	72	80	69	69	84	83	83	69
Women 25-49 years												
Living with parents	63	59	73	62	60	77	77	54	82	78	74	63
Living alone	83	74	85	82	-	82	-	-	86	87	-	-
With partner	80	75	83	78	58	88	79	67	88	82	77	70
With partner & 1 child	68	74	72	77	53	77	59	55	73	78	79	52
With partner & 2 child.	61	74	66	71	50	75	49	43	68	69	75	44
With partner & 3+ child.	48	56	50	49	44	60	36	30	59	57	60	35
Single-parent	64	59	70	70	65	53	43	68	57	84	79	69
Other	65	70	75	67	60	73	64	53	72	74	71	54
Total	66	69	72	70	55	73	56	52	74	76	75	53
Men 25-49 years												
Living with parents	74	64	76	69	80	80	77	69	89	81	80	73
Living alone	82	75	82	80	-	79	-	-	88	89	-	-
With partner	92	92	91	90	93	94	91	94	95	90	95	93
With partner & 1 child	93	94	92	93	95	92	89	94	95	95	95	94
With partner & 2 child.	94	95	93	94	95	93	89	93	96	95	96	93
With partner & 3+ child.	89	90	89	91	95	85	82	89	92	93	92	89
Single-parent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	84	89	84	82	88	81	77	84	91	88	89	85
Total	88	88	88	88	89	88	83	85	93	91	91	86

* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Table 5

Employment rate of older people (aged 50-64), in terms of type of household and gender (EU-11; 2000*)

	EU-11	Bel- gium	Germa- ny	France	Greece	Great Britain	Ireland	Italy	the Nether- lands	Austria	Portu- gal	Spain
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Total 50-64 years												
Living alone	43	33	44	44	35	50	44	35	43	39	49	42
With partner	43	29	43	41	40	58	40	24	47	36	51	31
With partner & children	56	66	63	63	54	72	52	44	67	57	65	49
Single-parent	47	60	55	57	35	57	36	33	54	45	56	43
Other	46	21	49	50	49	57	46	37	52	44	56	46
Total	48	38	49	49	47	60	47	38	52	44	58	45
Women 50-64 years												
Living alone	39	29	39	44	25	47	35	25	37	32	47	36
With partner	35	19	36	37	28	50	24	15	35	26	41	18
With partner & children	37	45	48	52	30	62	26	24	47	40	50	23
Single-parent	44	58	52	57	30	55	31	27	44	41	55	40
Other	36	13	41	44	33	50	31	26	40	35	47	31
Total	37	26	40	43	30	52	28	22	38	32	47	26
Men 50-64 years												
Living alone	49	39	49	45	58	54	51	50	51	50	54	48
With partner	53	41	51	46	57	68	59	37	60	48	63	48
With partner & children	70	81	73	70	71	79	73	60	81	69	77	71
Other	57	33	58	56	66	63	61	51	69	54	68	61
Total	60	51	58	55	66	68	65	54	65	56	71	65

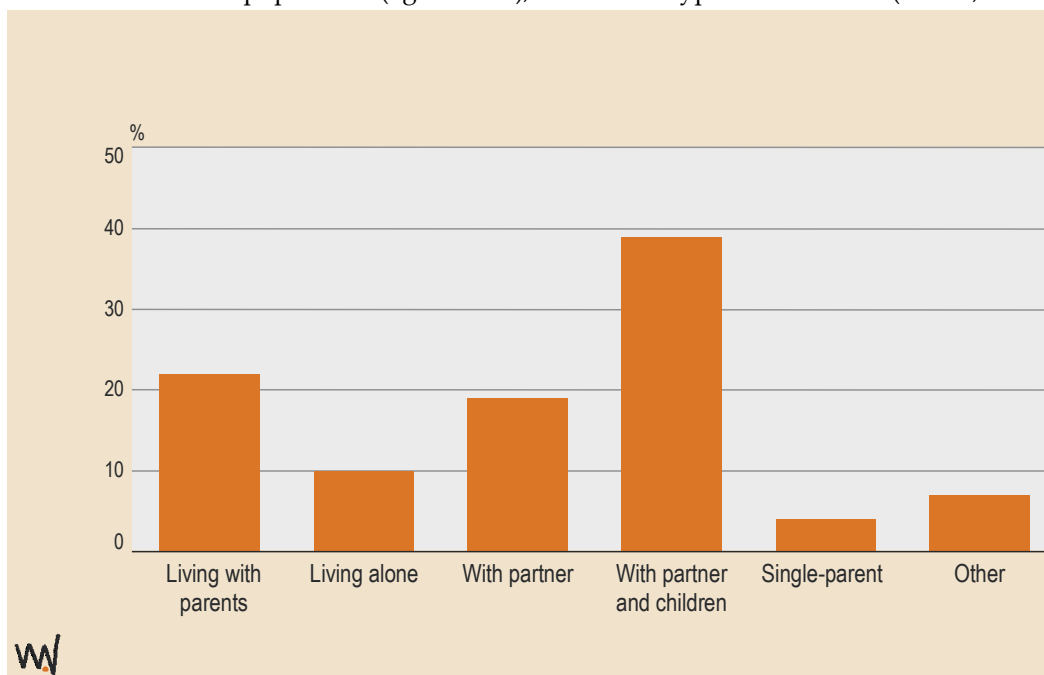
* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Appendix 3 Charts

Source of all charts: Eurostat LFS (Processing Steunpunt WAV)

Chart 1.1

Classification of the population (aged 15-64), in terms of type of household (EU-11; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 1.2

Classification of the population (aged 15-64), in terms of type of household (Italy; 2000)

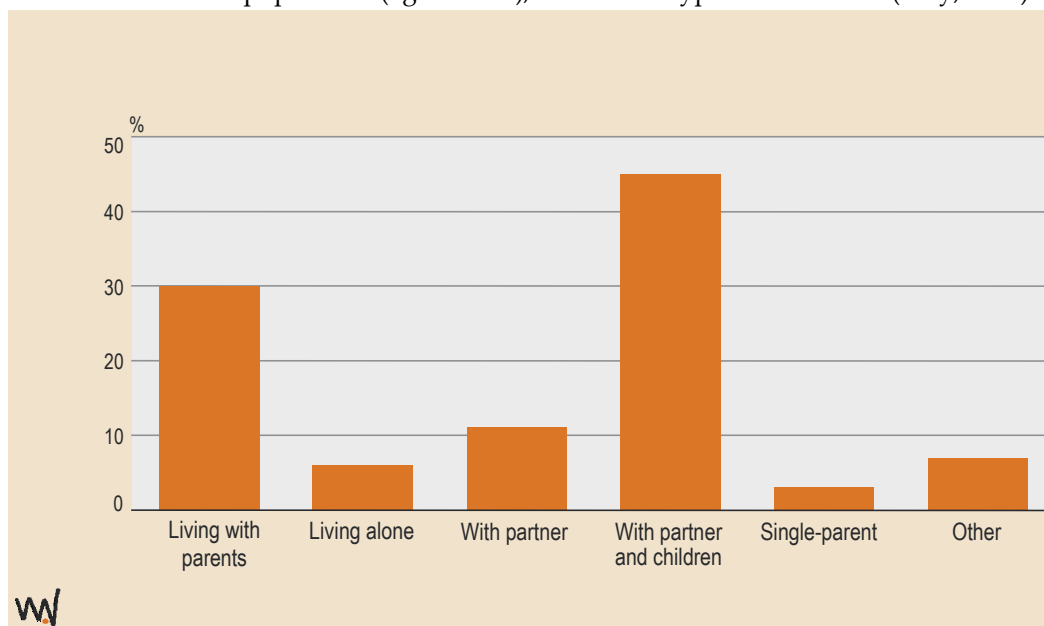
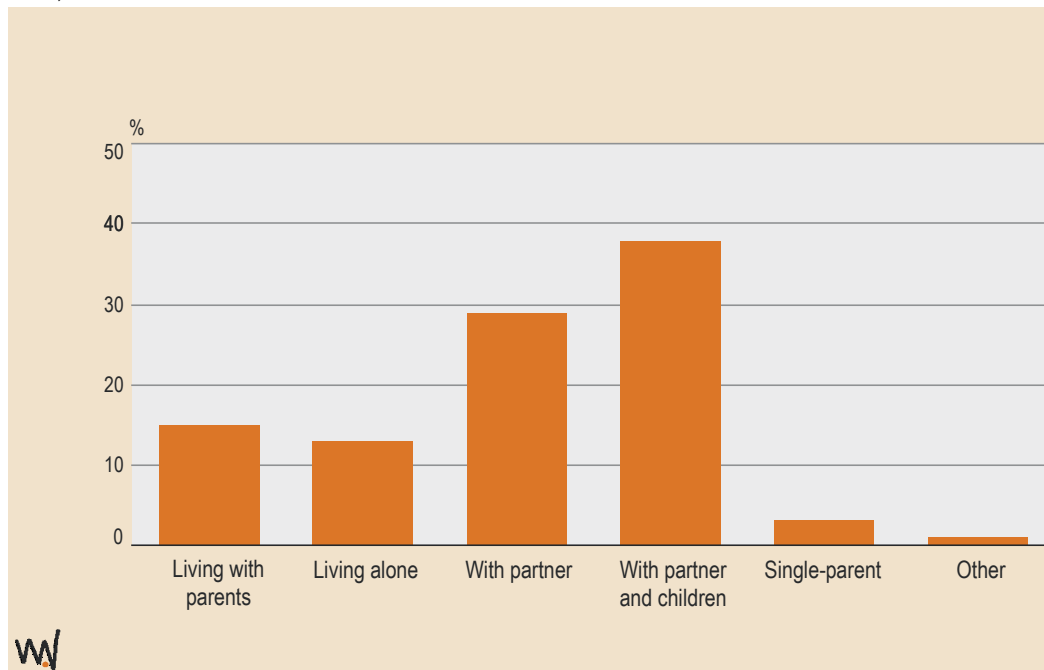


Chart 1.3

Classification of the population (aged 15-64), in terms of type of household (the Netherlands; 2000)

**Chart 1.4**

Share of the population living with parents, in terms of age (Spain; 1988 & 2000)

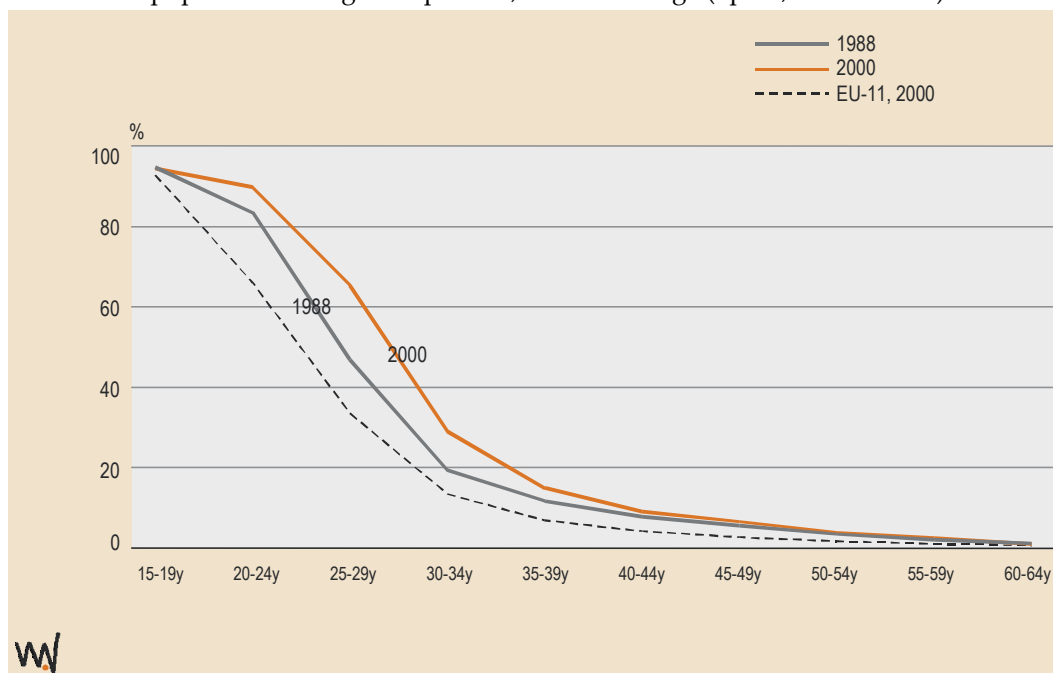


Chart 1.5

Share of the population living with parents, in terms of age (Great Britain; 1988 & 1999)

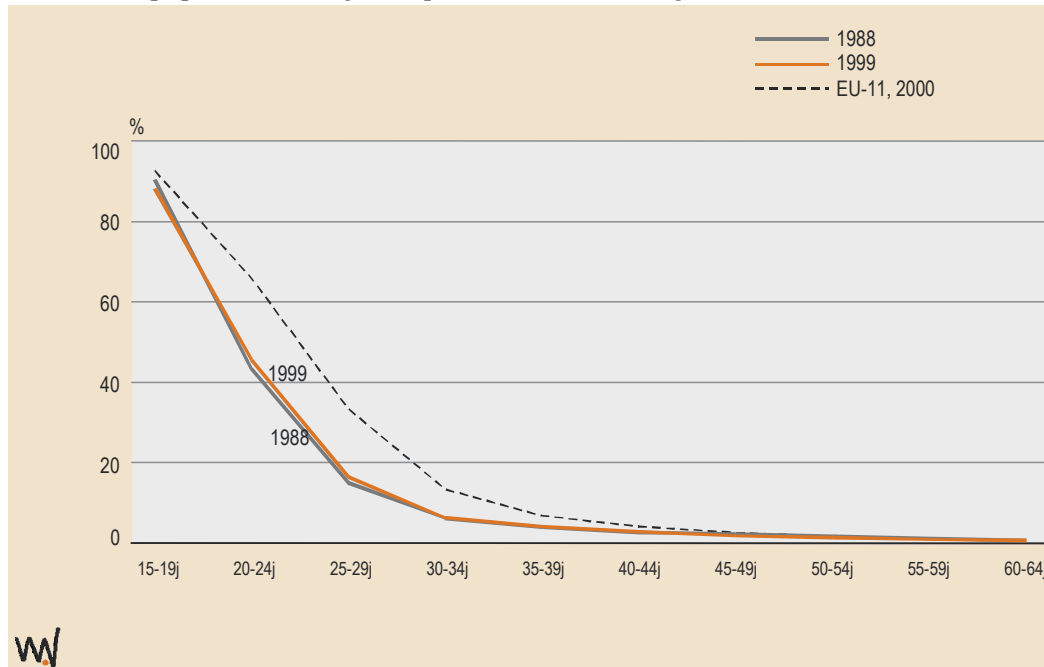


Chart 1.6

Share of the population living with parents, in terms of age and gender (Germany; 2000)

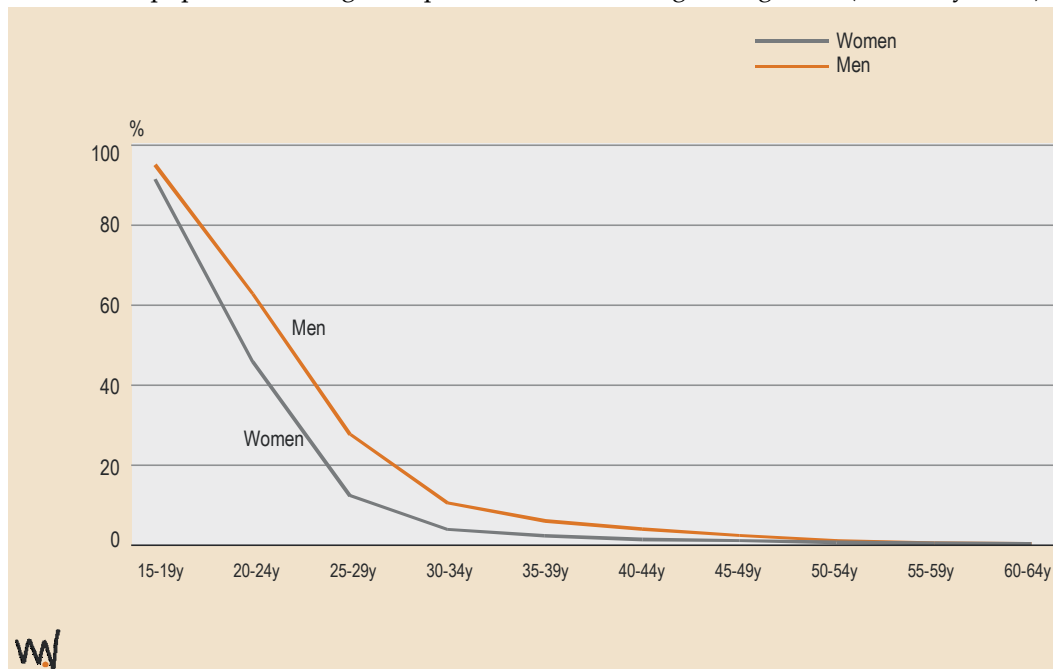


Chart 1.7

Share of the population living alone, in terms of age and gender (the Netherlands; 2000)

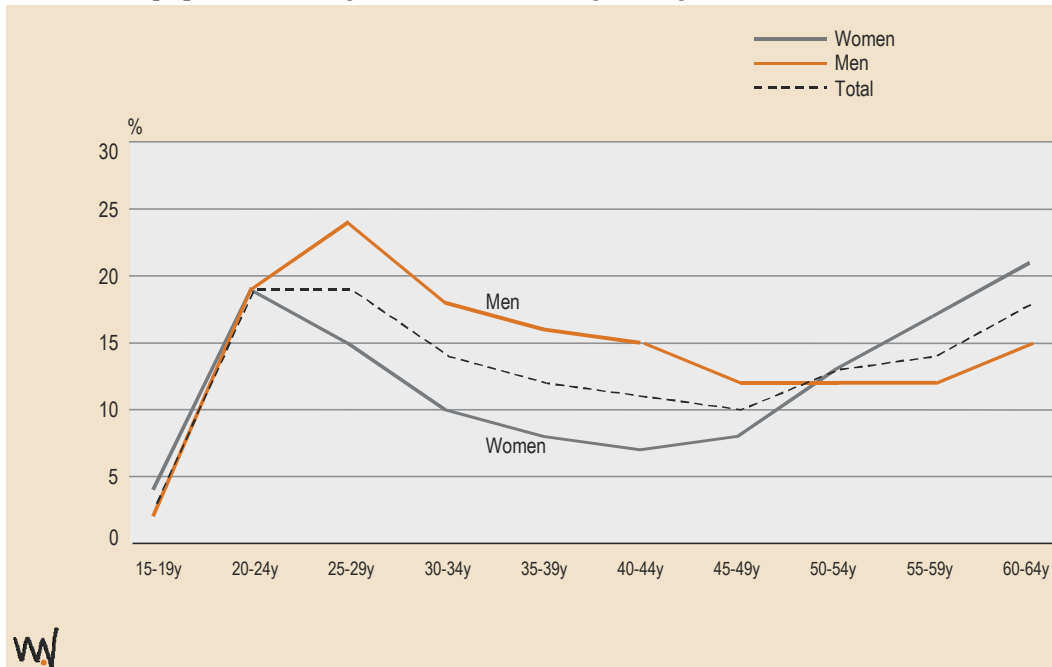


Chart 1.8

Share of the population living alone, in terms of age and gender (Portugal; 2000)

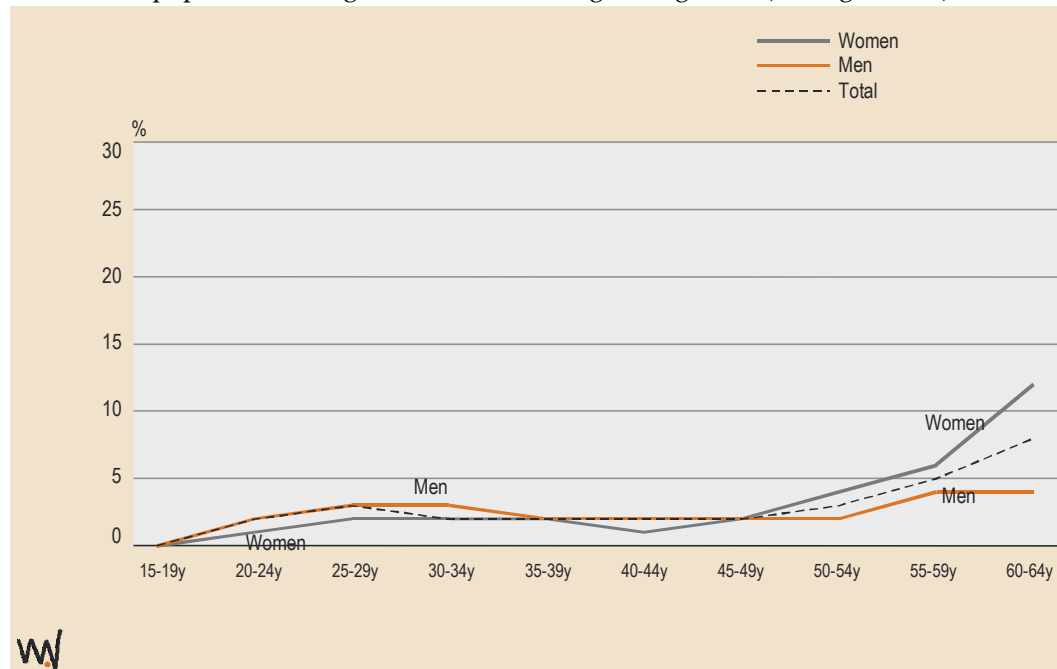


Chart 1.9

Share of the population living with a partner without children, in terms of age (France; 1988 & 2000)

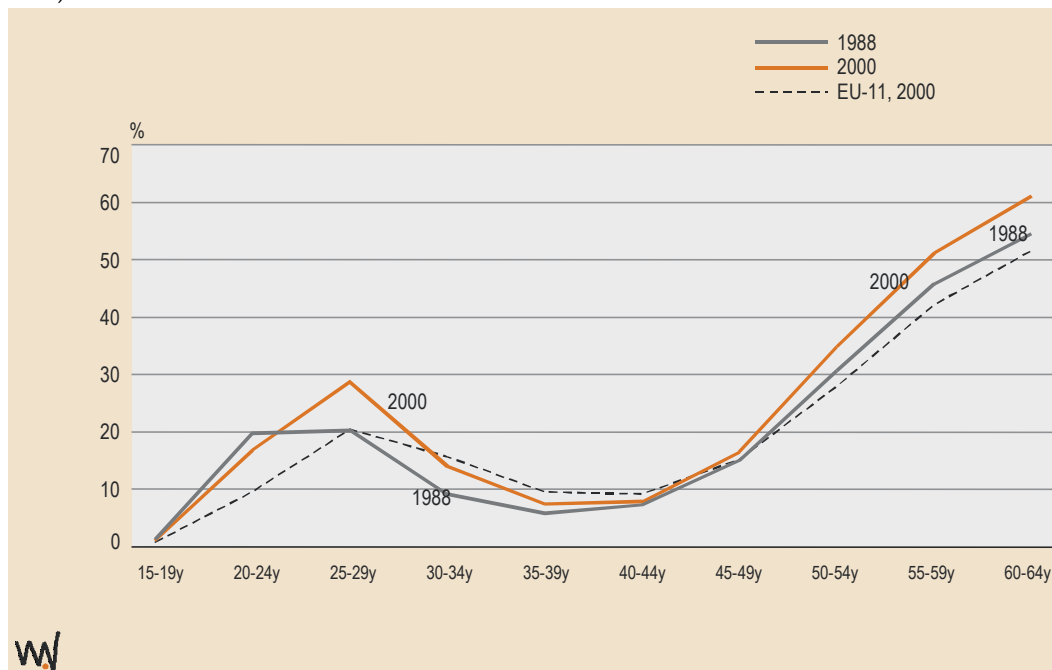


Chart 1.10

Share of the population living with a partner without children, in terms of age (Portugal; 1990 & 2000)

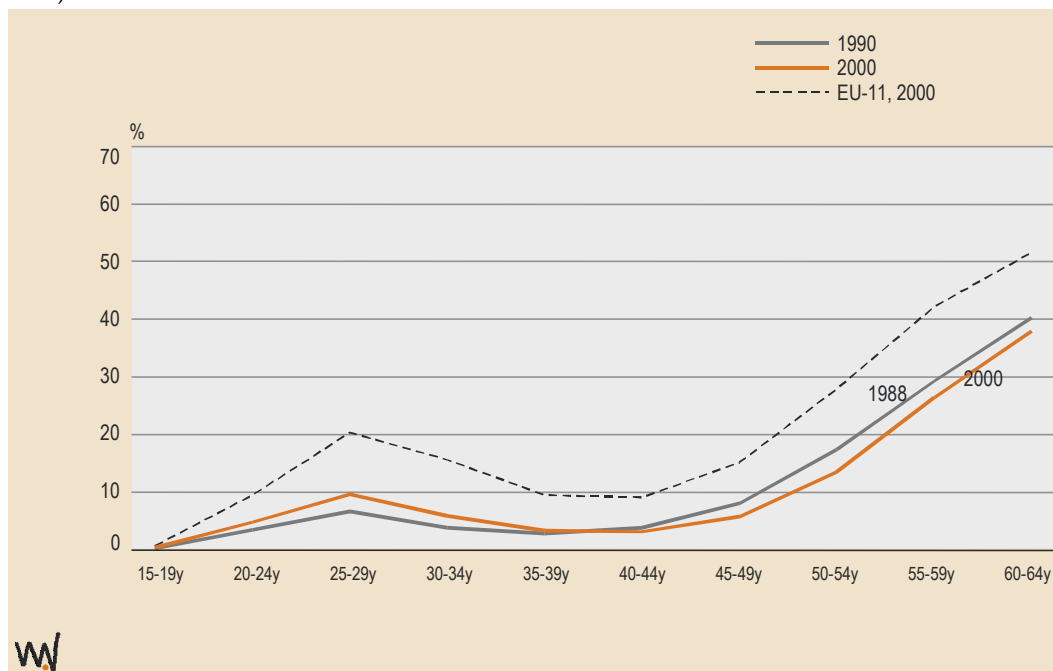
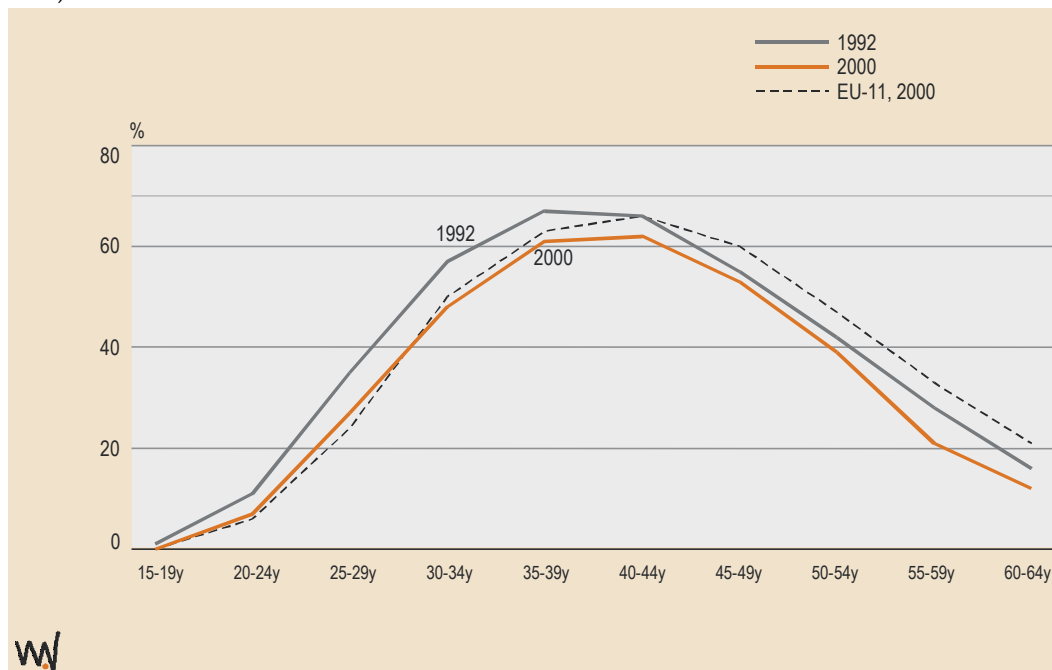


Chart 1.11

Share of the population living with a partner and children, in terms of age (Germany; 1992 & 2000)

**Chart 1.12**

Share of the population living with a partner and children, in terms of age (Greece; 1988 & 2000)

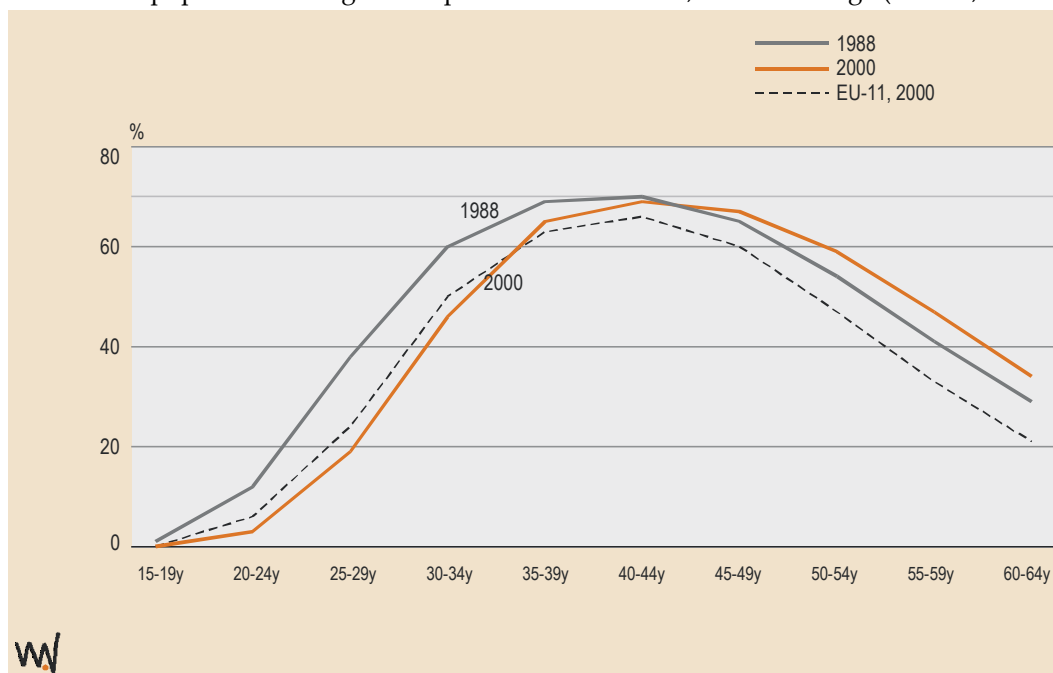
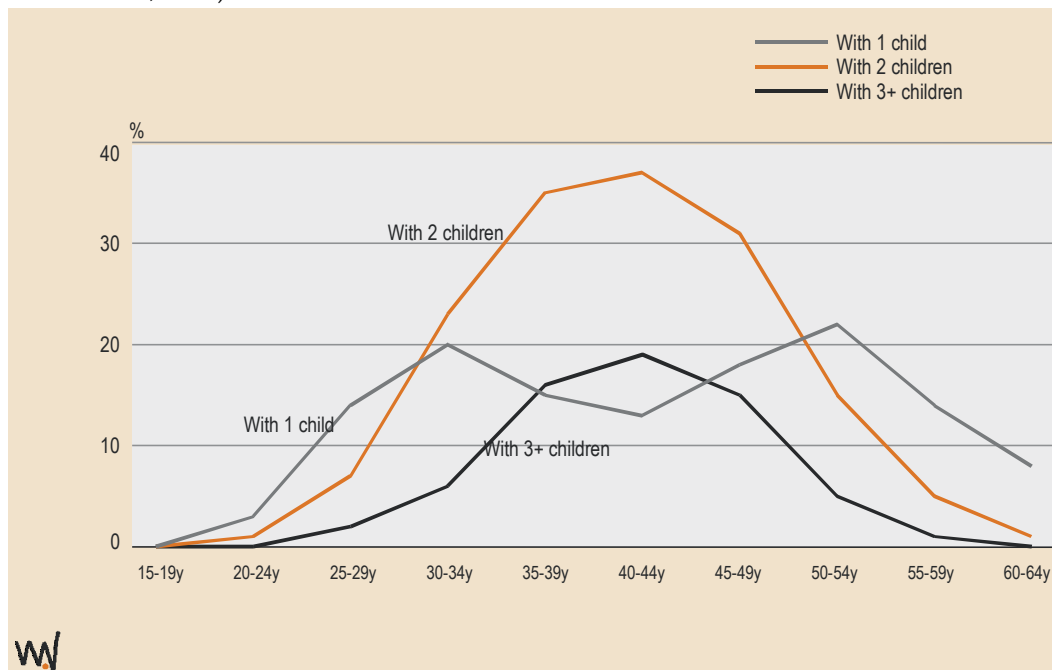


Chart 1.13

Share of the population living with a partner and one, two or more children, in terms of age (the Netherlands; 2000)

**Chart 1.14**

Evolution of the share of the population living with a partner and one, two or more children (France; 1988-2000)

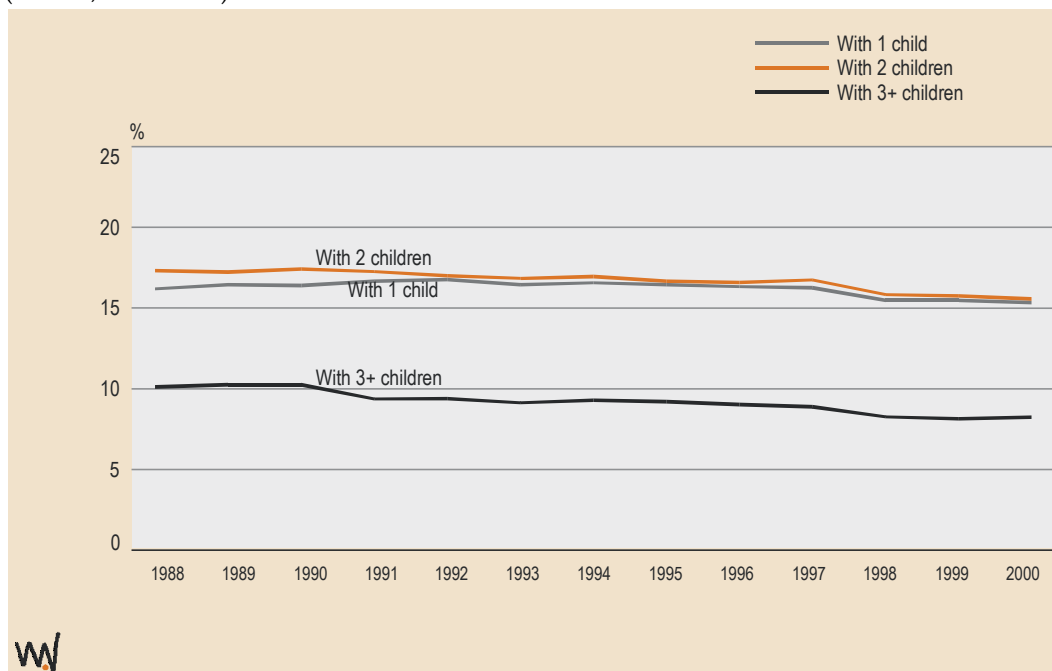


Chart 1.15

Evolution of the share of the population living with a partner and one, two or more children (Ireland; 1988-1997)

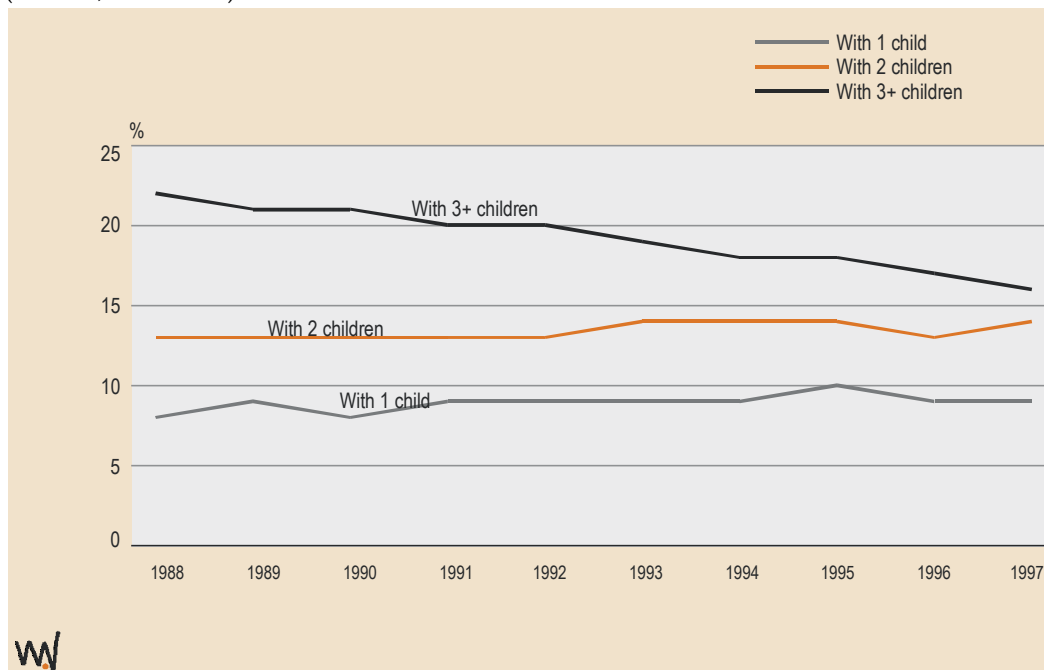


Chart 1.16

Share of the population that is the head of a single-parent family, in terms of age and gender (France; 1988 & 2000)

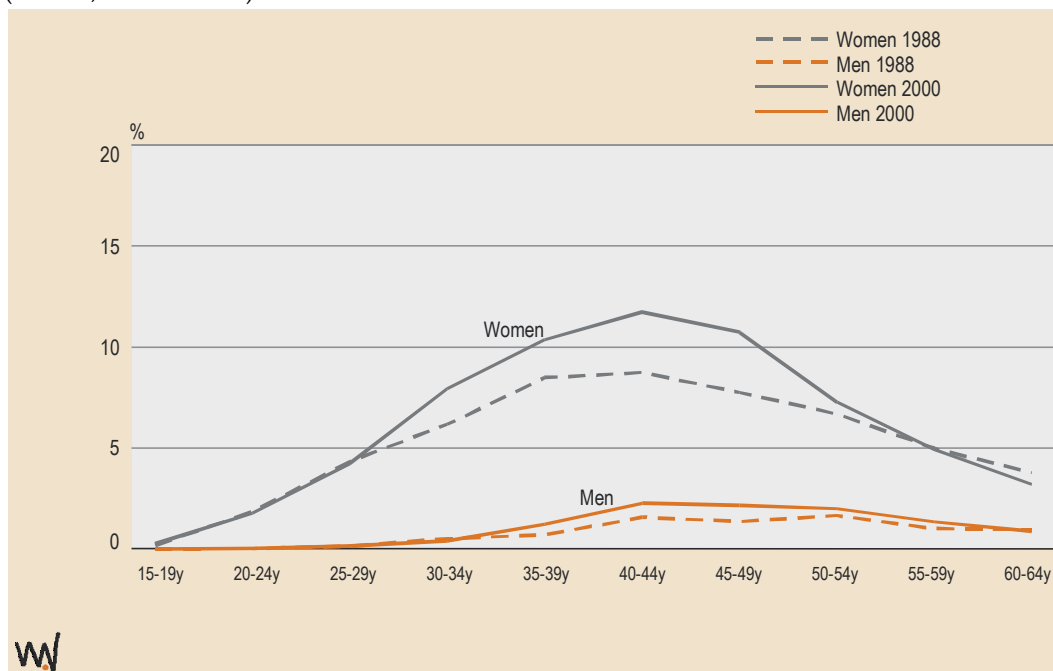


Chart 1.17

Share of the population that is the head of a single-parent family, in terms of age and gender (Italy; 1990 & 2000)

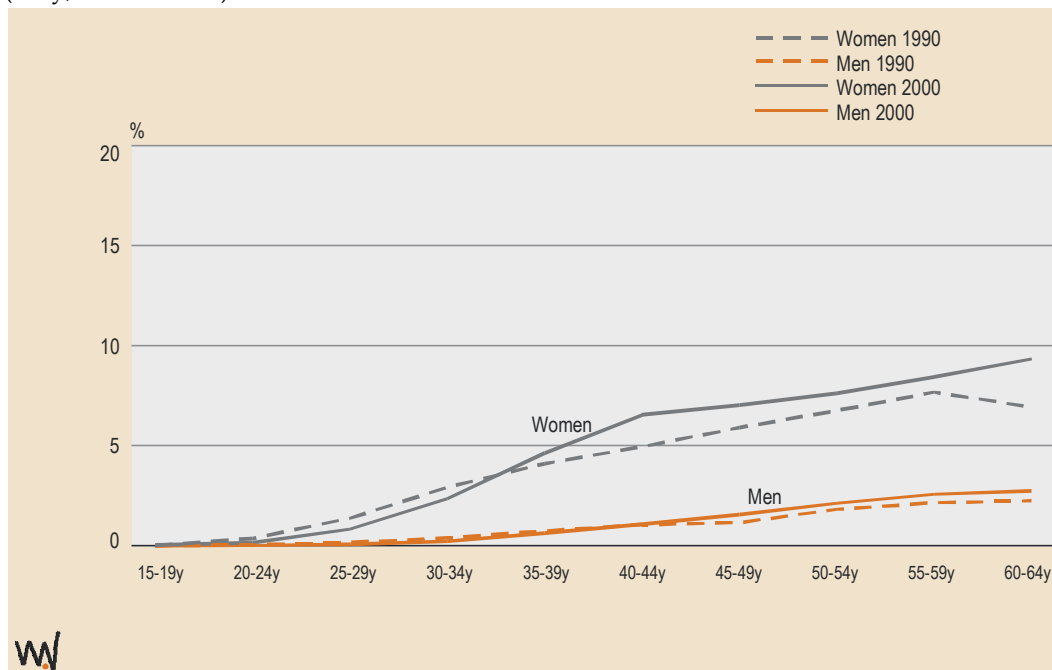


Chart 1.18

Share of the population that is the head of a single-parent family, in terms of age and gender (Great Britain; 1988 & 1999)

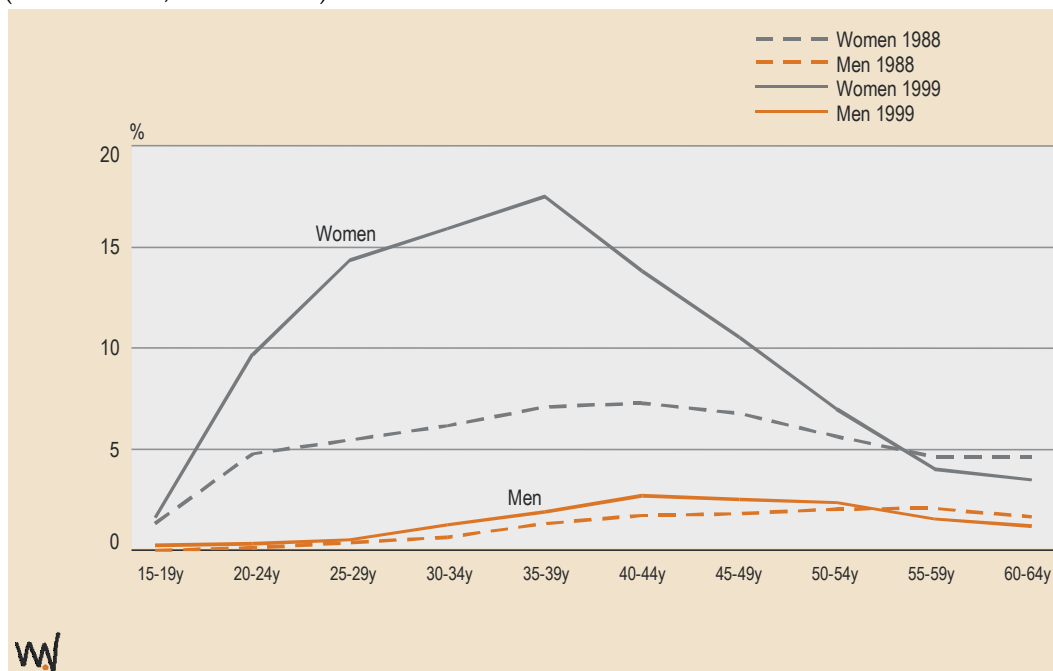
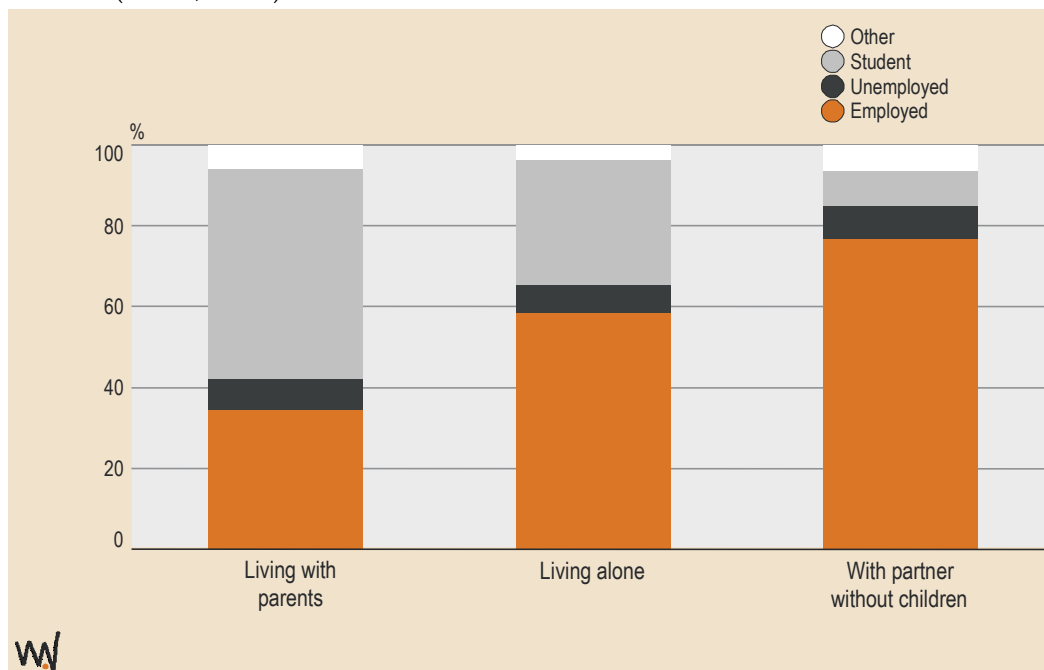


Chart 2.1

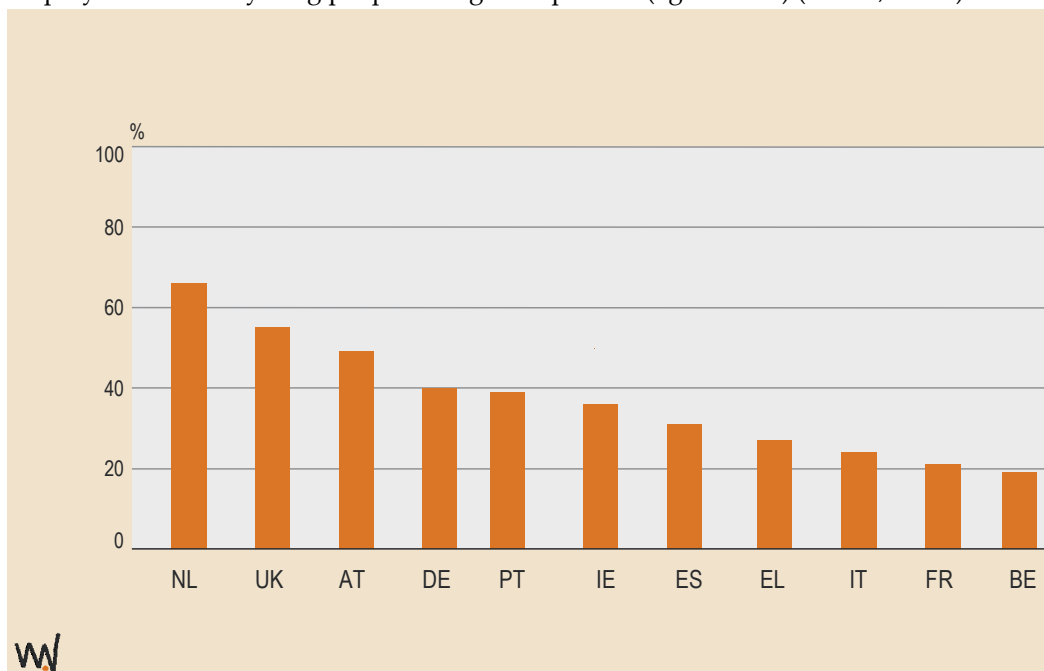
Classification of young people (aged 15-24), in terms of type of household and employment situation (EU-11; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 2.2

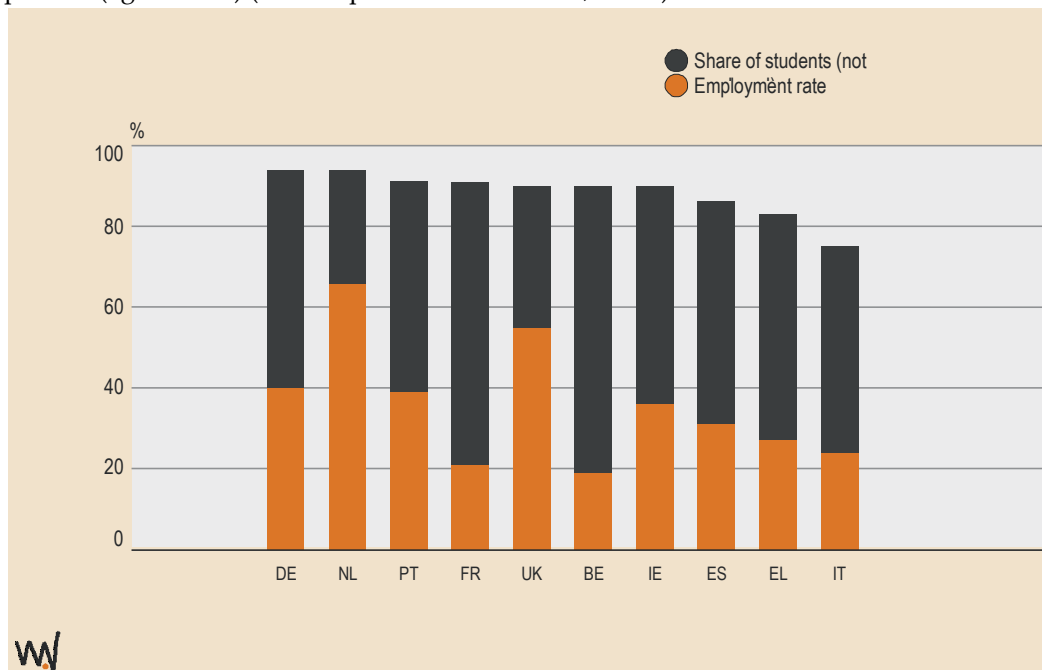
Employment rate of young people living with parents (aged 15-24) (EU-11; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 2.3

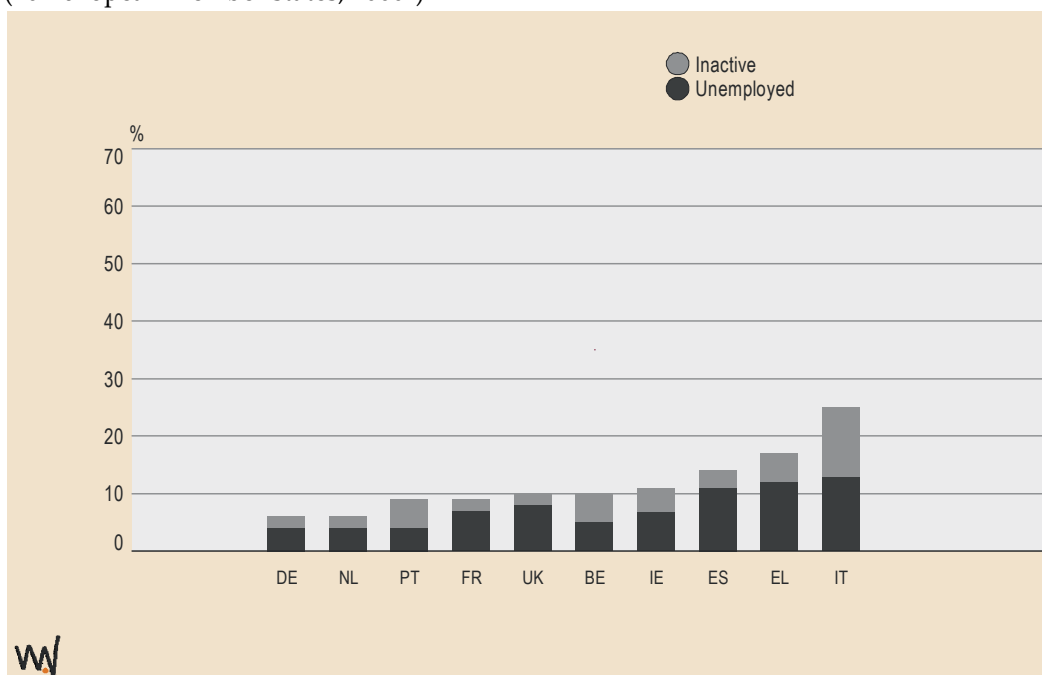
Employment rate and share of students (who are not employed) of young people living with parents (aged 15-24) (10 European member states; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 2.4

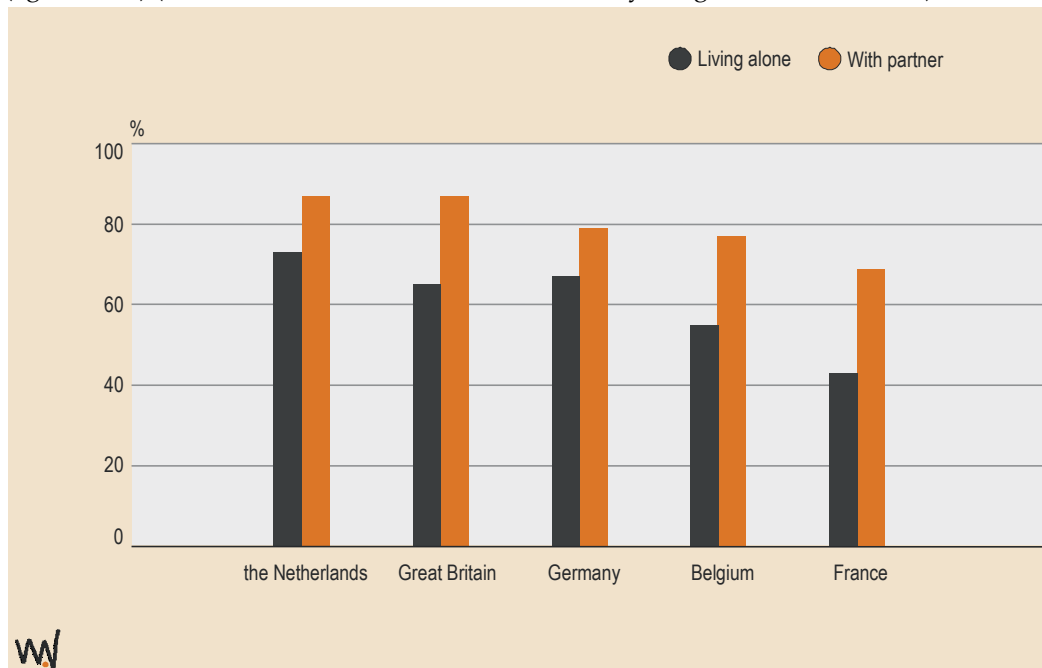
Proportion of young people living with parents (aged 15-24), who are unemployed and inactive (10 European member states; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 2.5

Employment rate of young people living alone and young people with a partner without children (aged 15-24) (the Netherlands, Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, France; 2000*)



* Data Great Britain: 1999

Chart 2.6

Evolution of the employment rate in terms of the type of household and evolution of the share of students in the young people living with parents (aged 15-24) (Germany; 1992-2000)

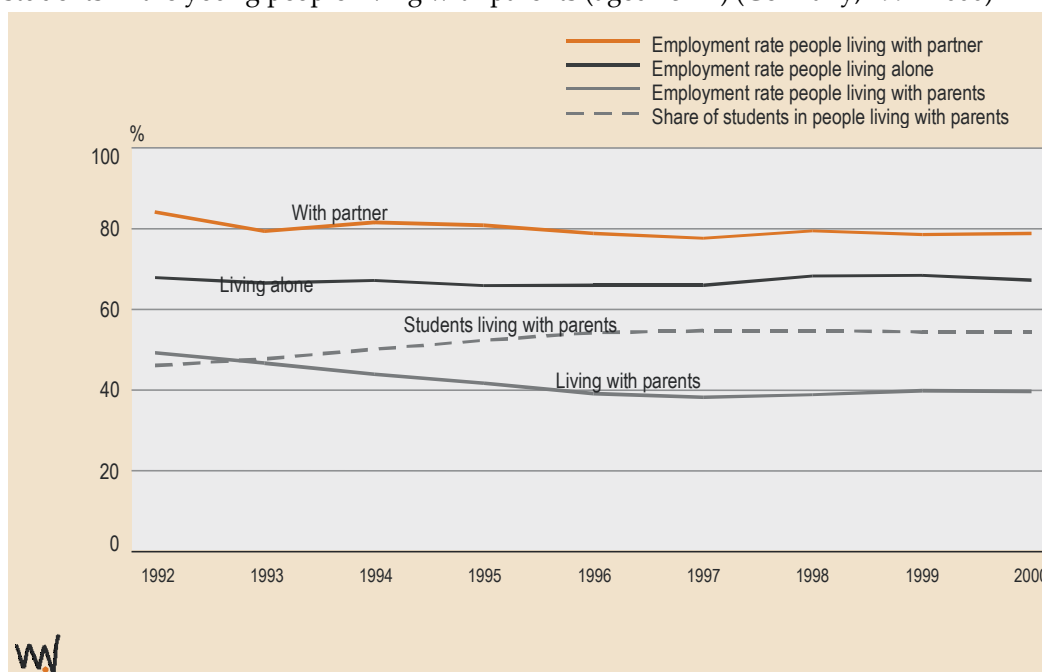
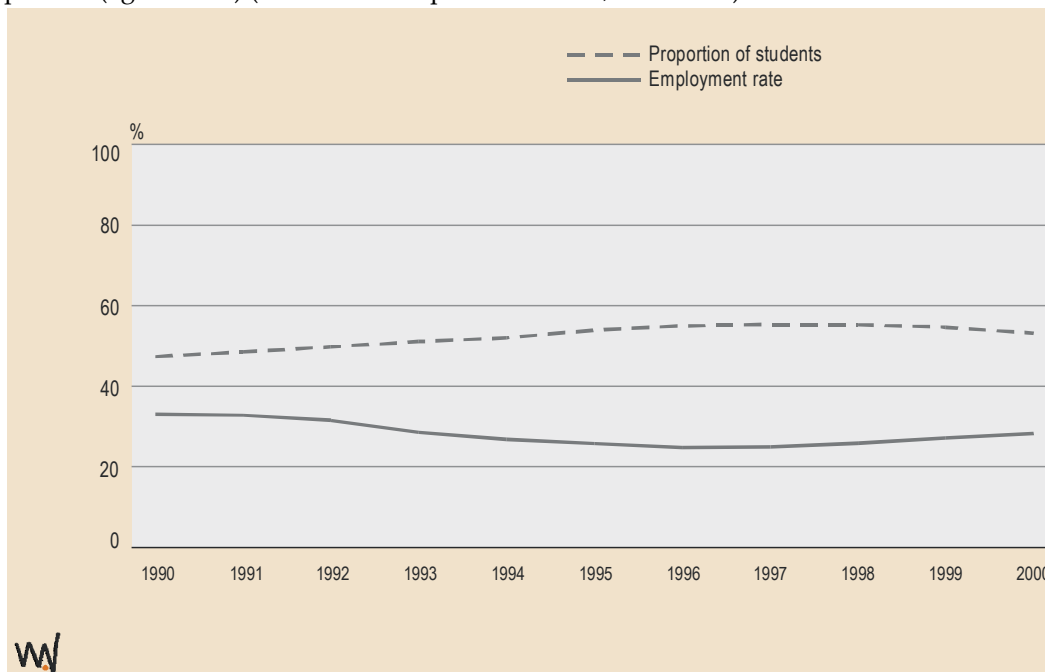
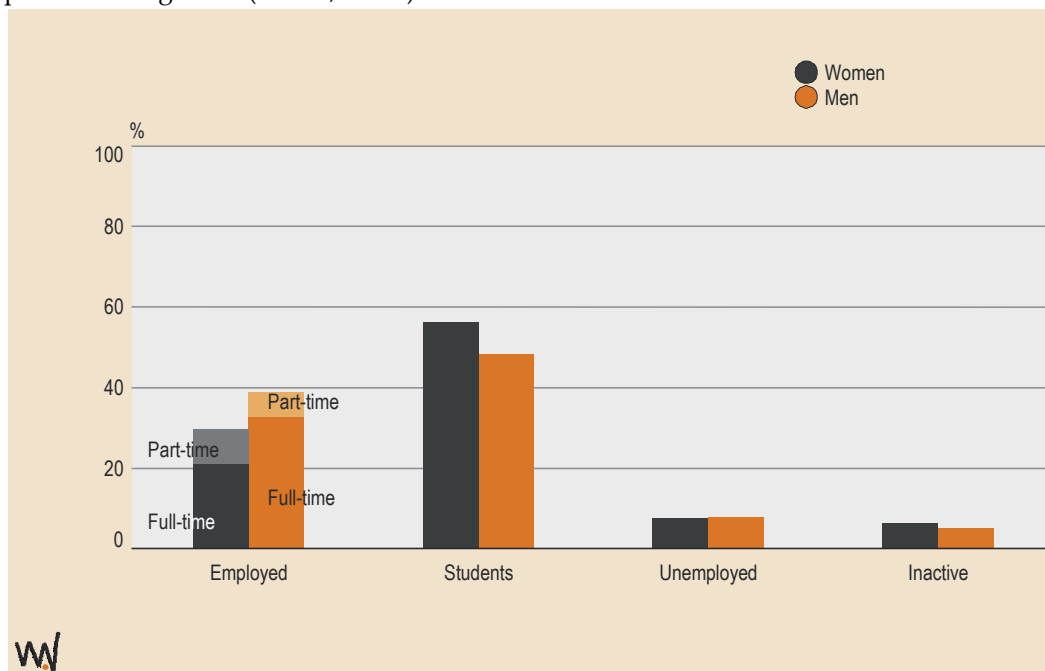


Chart 2.7

Evolution of the employment rate and of the share of students in the young people living with parents (aged 15-24) (Southern European countries; 1990-2000)

**Chart 2.8**

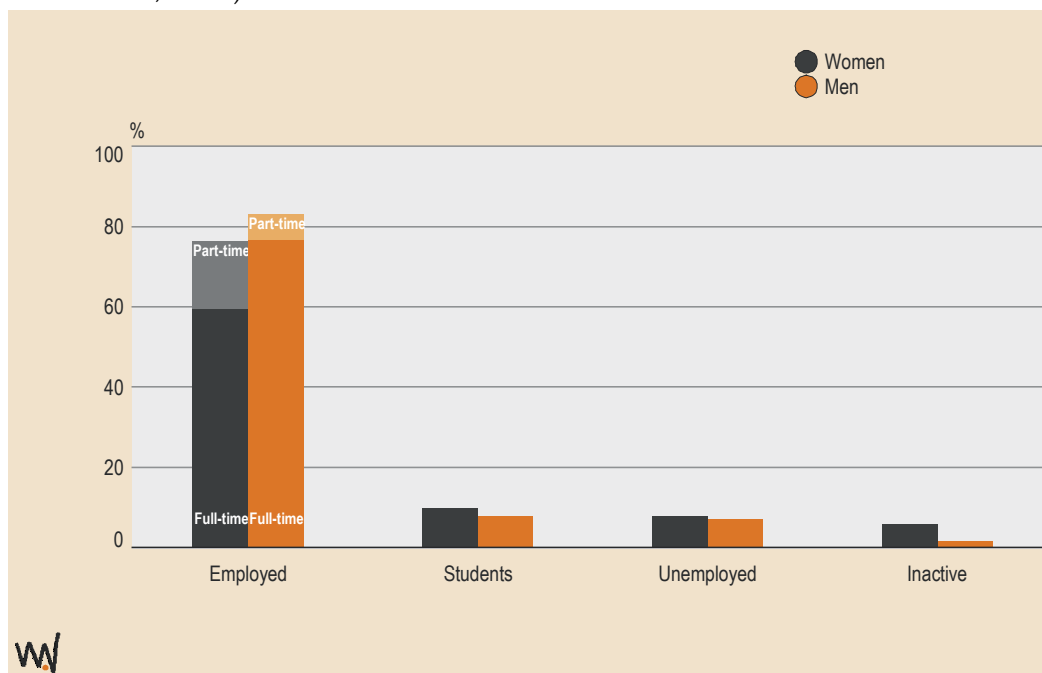
Classification of the young people living with parents (aged 15-24), in terms of labour market position and gender (EU-11; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 2.9

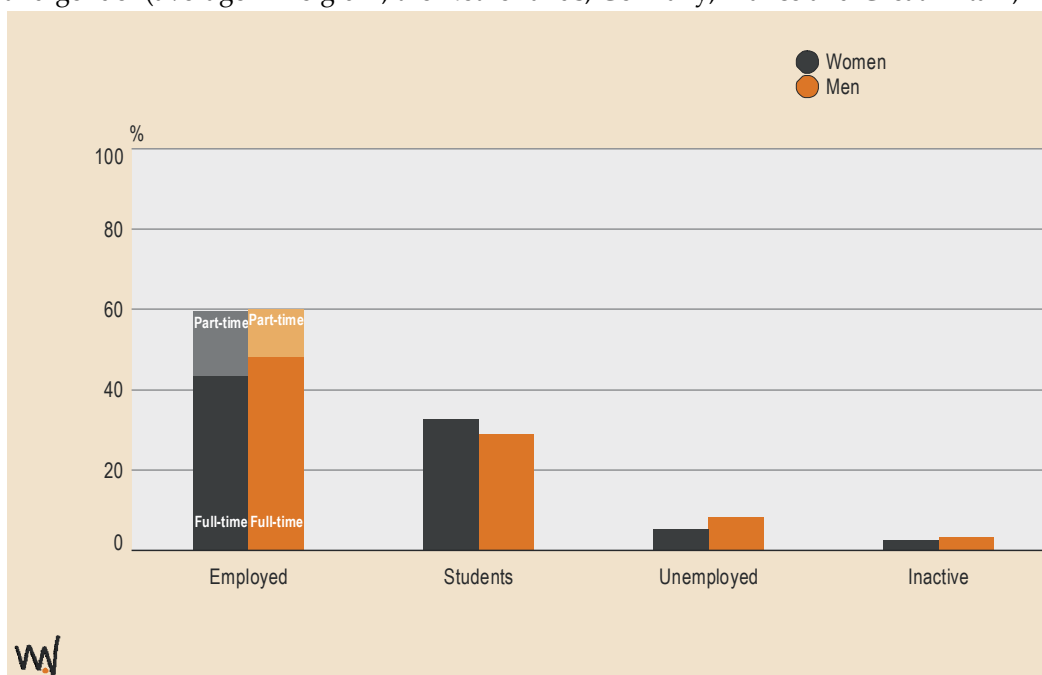
Classification of the young people living with a partner without children (aged 15-24), in terms of labour market position and gender (average in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, France and Great Britain; 2000*)



* Data Great Britain: 1999

Chart 2.10

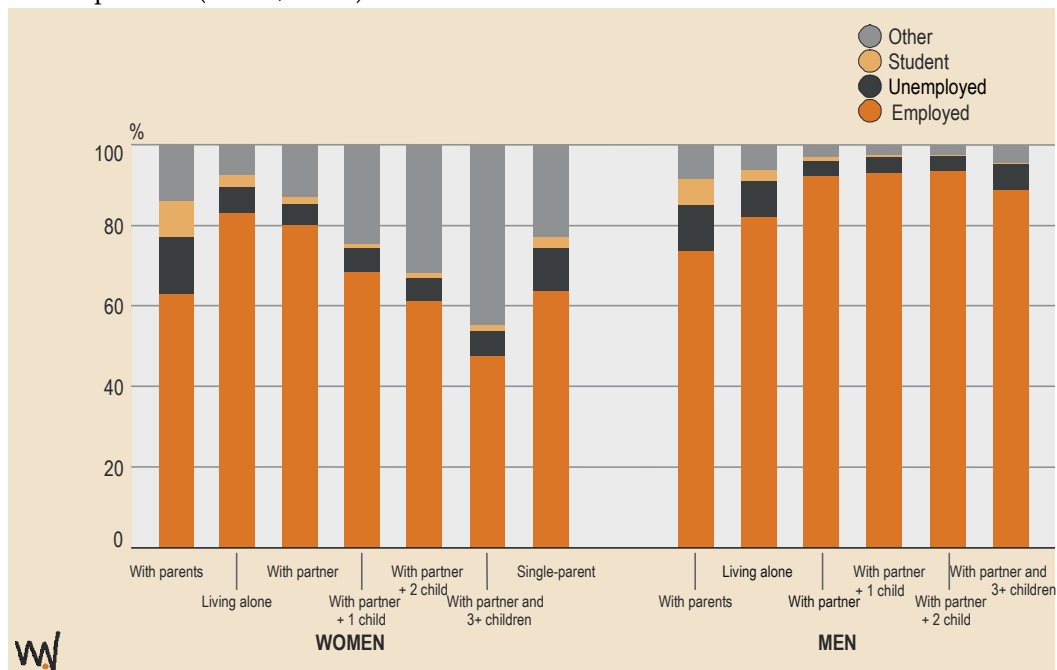
Classification of the young people living alone (aged 15-24), in terms of labour market position and gender (average in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, France and Great Britain; 2000*)



* Data Great Britain: 1999

Chart 3.1

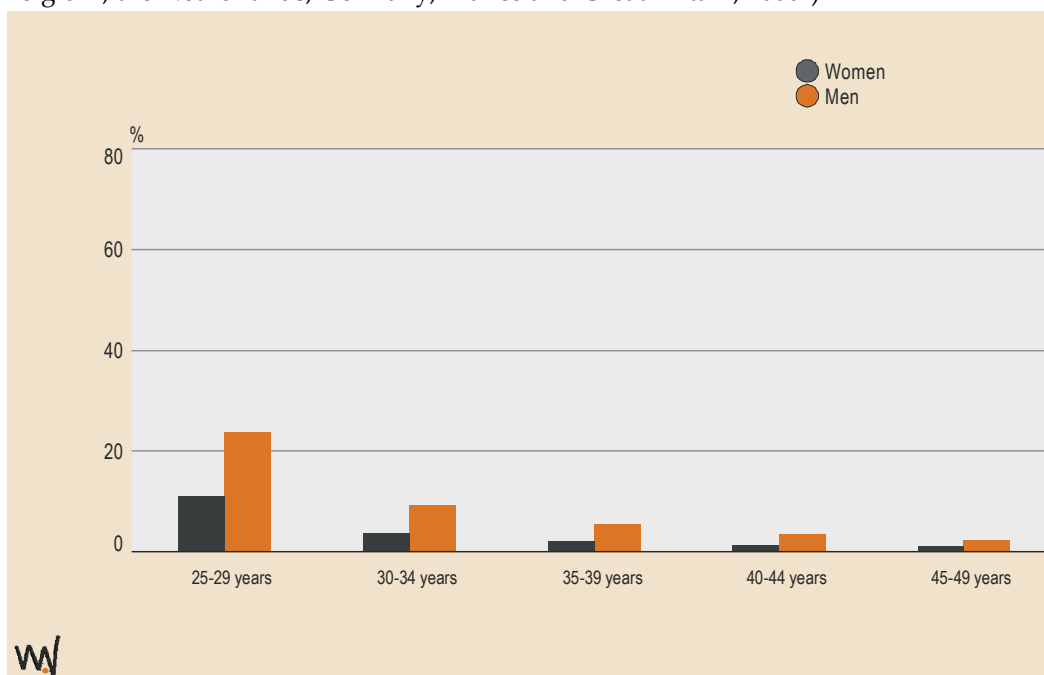
Classification of the population (aged 25-49), in terms type of household, gender and labour market position (EU-11; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 3.2

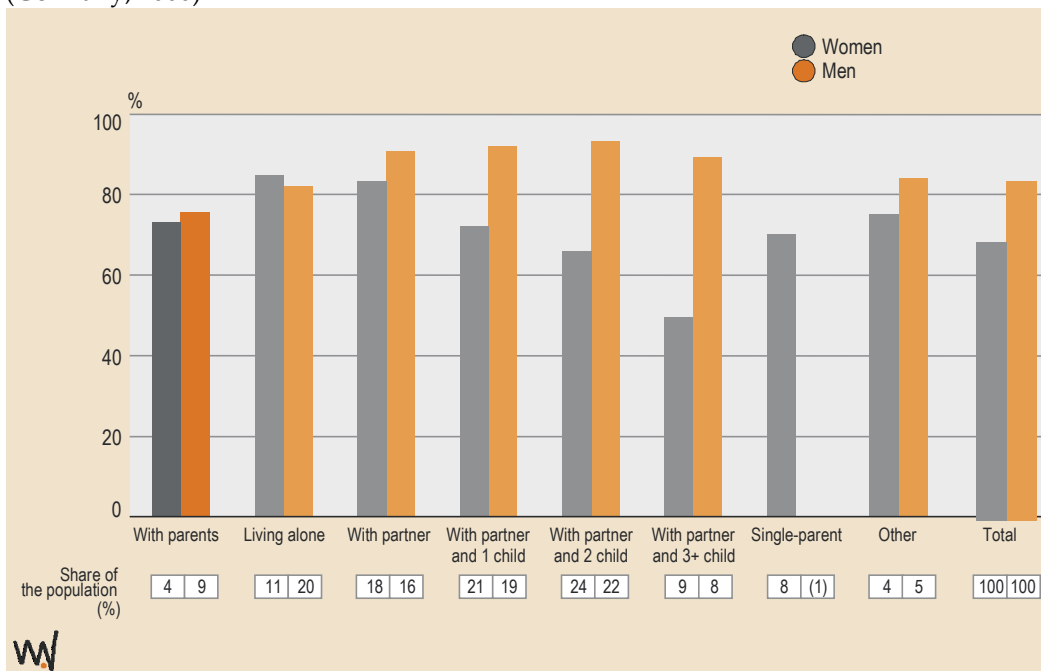
Share of the population living with parents (aged 25-49), in terms of age and gender (average in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, France and Great Britain; 2000*)



* Data Great Britain: 1999

Chart 3.3

Employment rate of the population (aged 25-49), in terms of type of household and gender (Germany; 2000)

**Chart 3.4**

Classification of the population living with parents and of the total population (aged 25-49), in terms of gender and labour market position (Belgium; 2000)

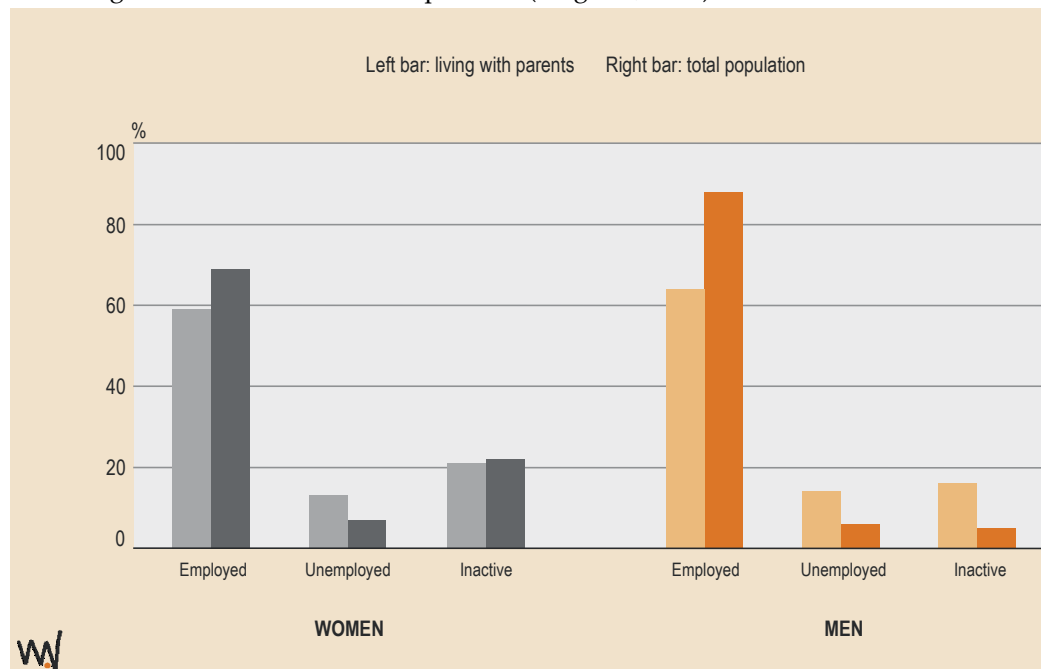
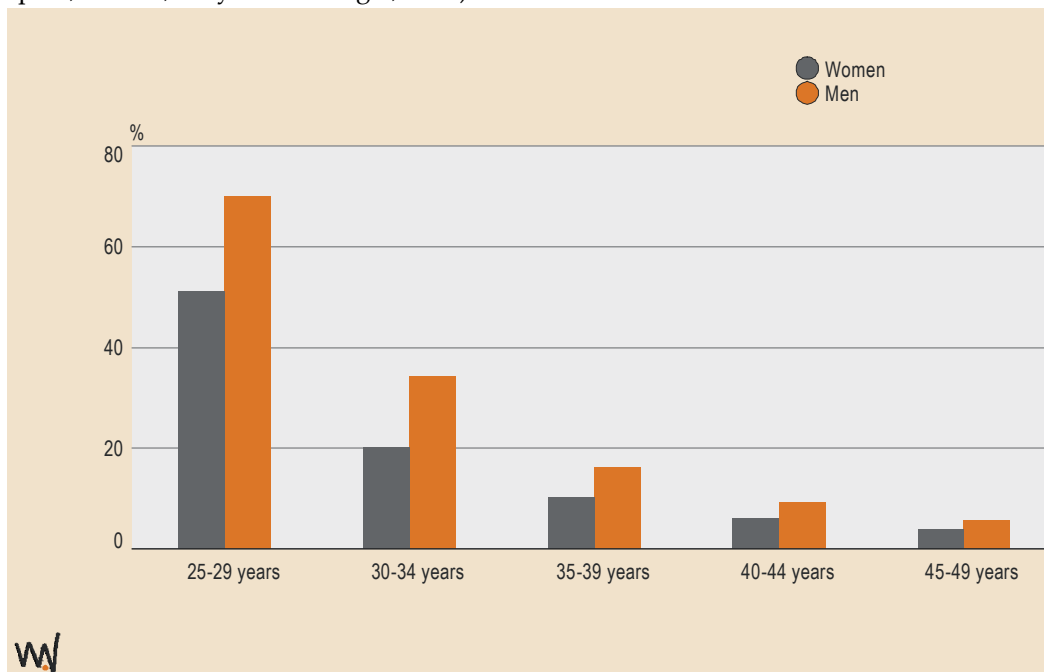


Chart 3.5

Share of the population living with parents (aged 25-49), in terms of age and gender (average in Spain, Greece, Italy and Portugal; 2000)

**Chart 3.6**

Employment rate of the population (aged 25-49), in terms of type of household and gender (Spain; 2000)

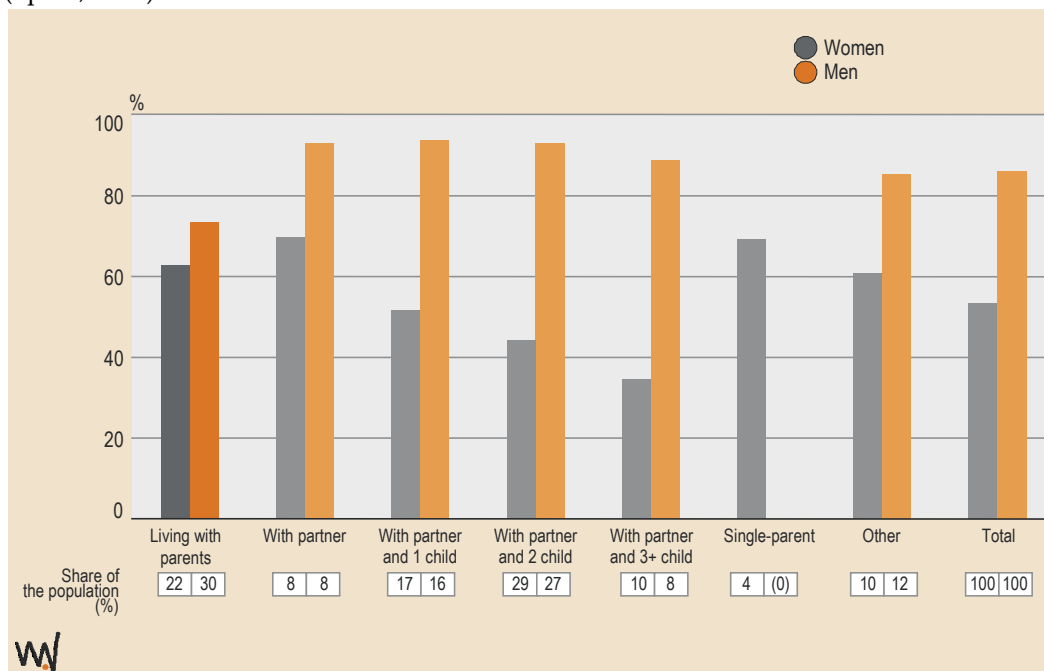
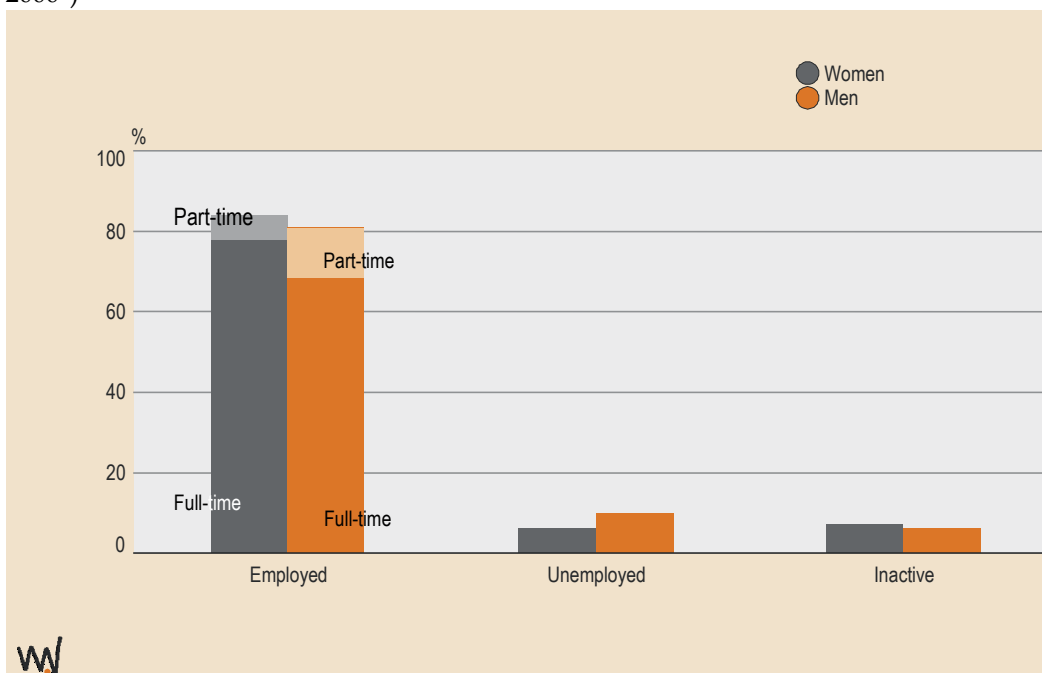


Chart 3.7

Classification of the population living alone (aged 25-49), in terms of gender and labour market position (average in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Great Britain and Austria; 2000*)



* Data Great Britain: 1999

Chart 3.8

Employment rate of the population (aged 25-49), in terms of type of household and gender (France; 2000)

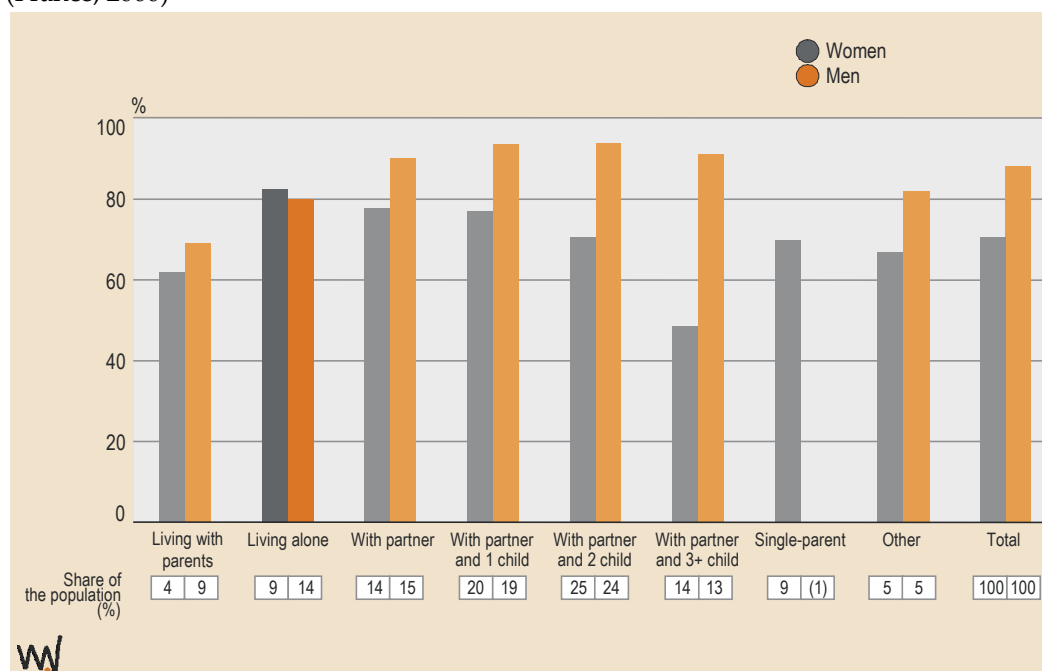


Chart 3.9

Unemployment rate of the population (aged 25-49), in terms of type of household and gender (Great Britain; 1999)

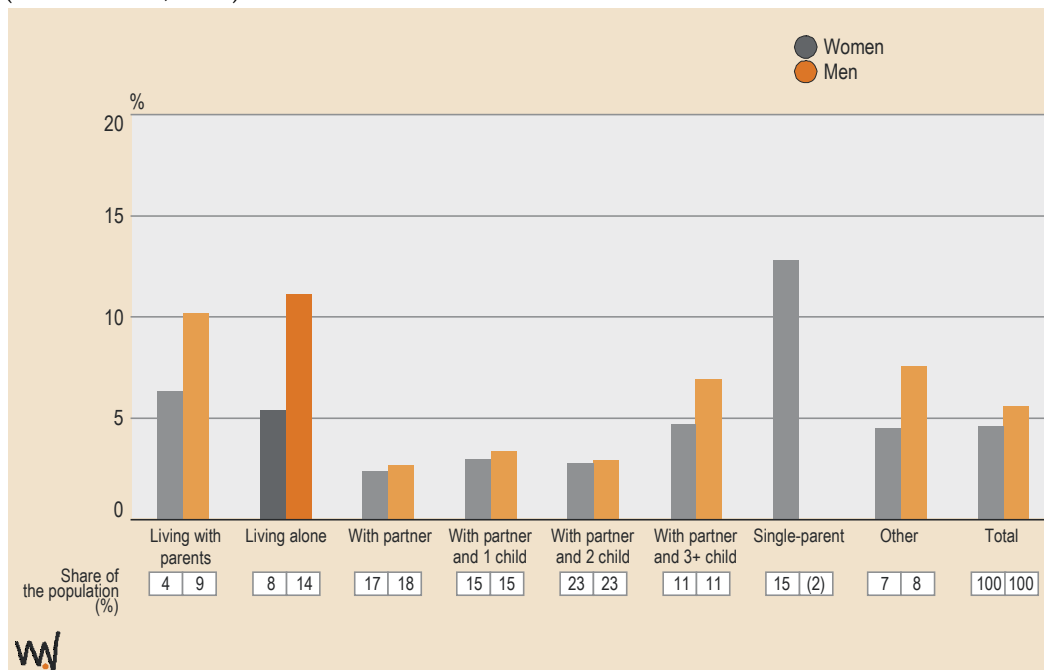
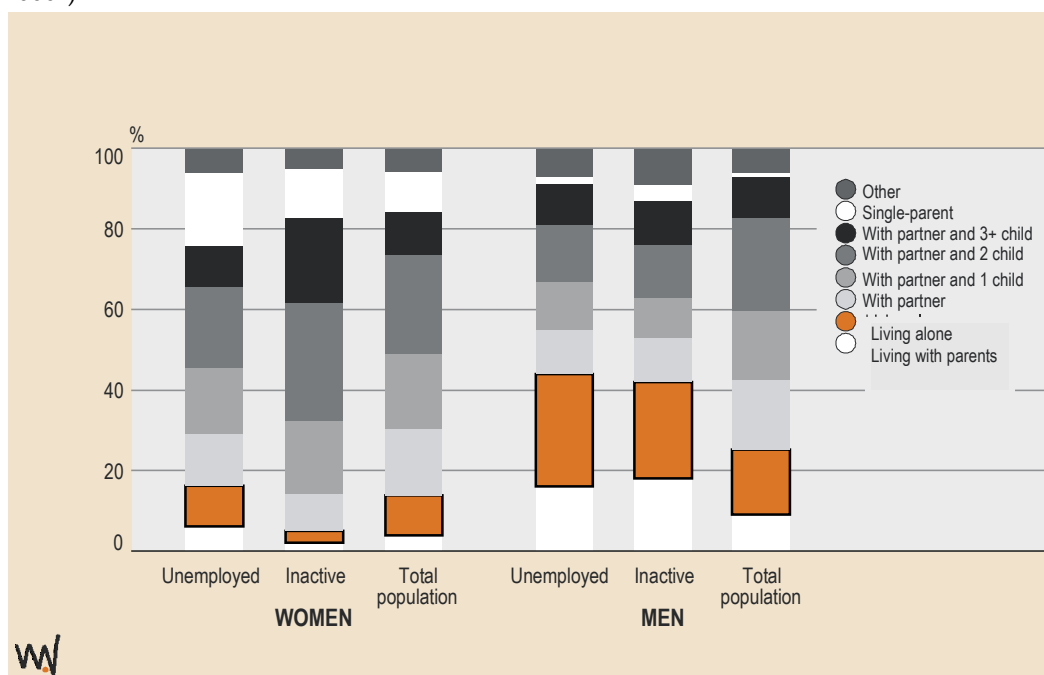


Chart 3.10

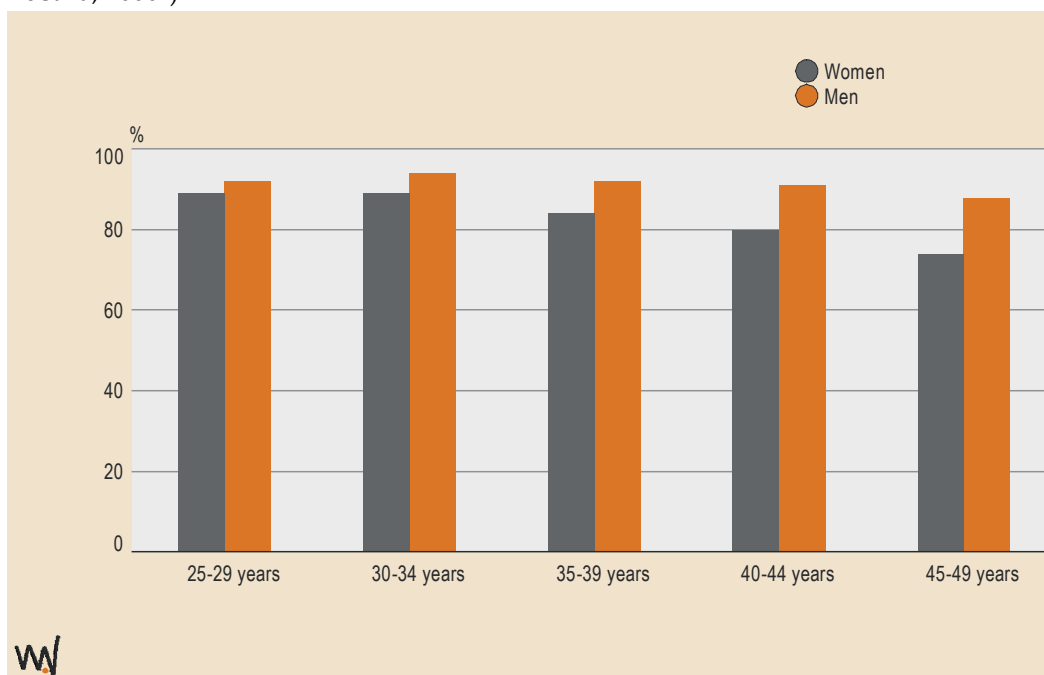
Classification of jobseekers, inactive people and the total population (aged 25-49), in terms of type of household (average in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Great Britain and Austria; 2000*)



* Data Great Britain: 1999

Chart 3.11

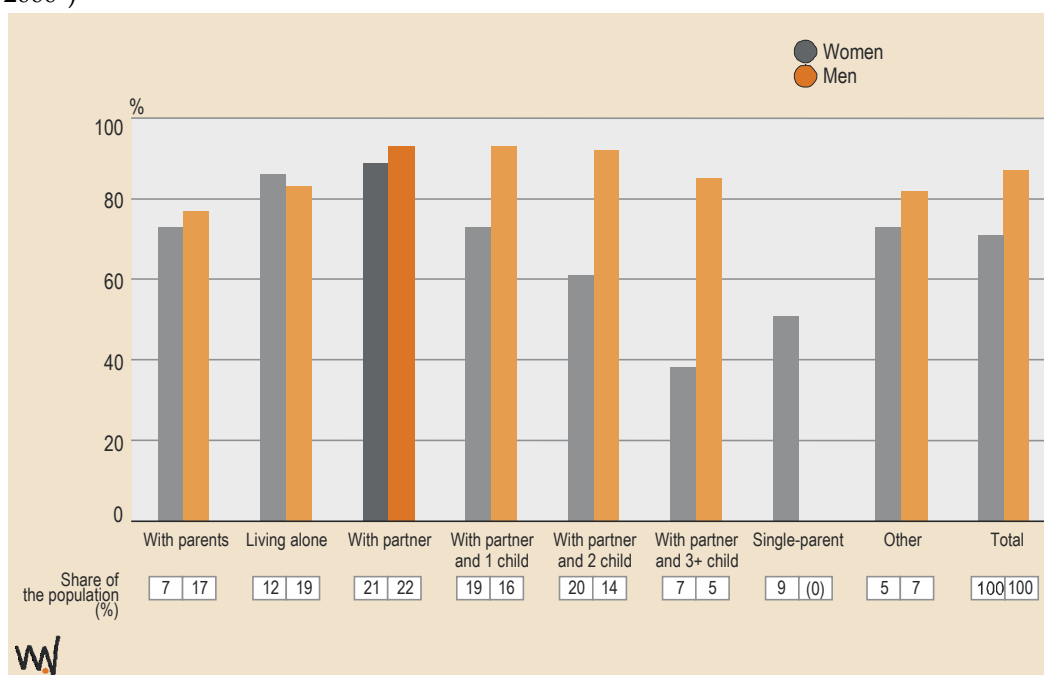
Employment rate of people with a partner, without children (aged 25-49), in terms of age and gender (average in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Great Britain, Ireland and Austria; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 3.12

Employment rate of young adults (aged 25-34), in terms of type of household and gender (average in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Great Britain, Ireland and Austria; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 3.13

Classification of the women with a partner, without children (aged 35-49), in terms of age and labour market position (Austria; 2000)

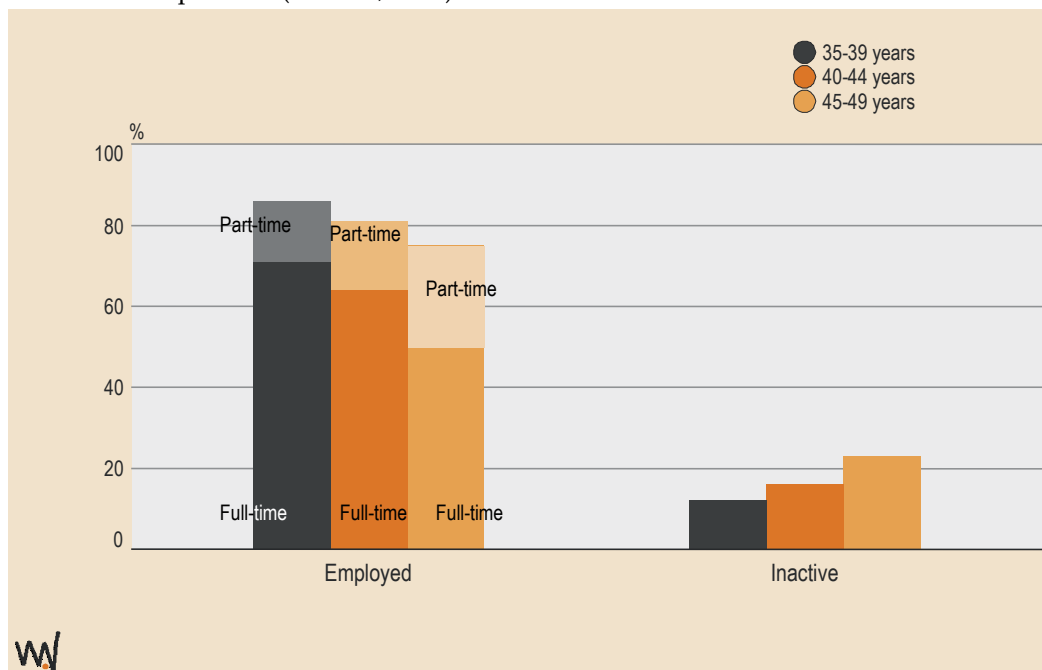


Chart 3.14

Employment rate of people with a partner, without children (aged 25-49), in terms of age and gender (average in Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece; 2000)

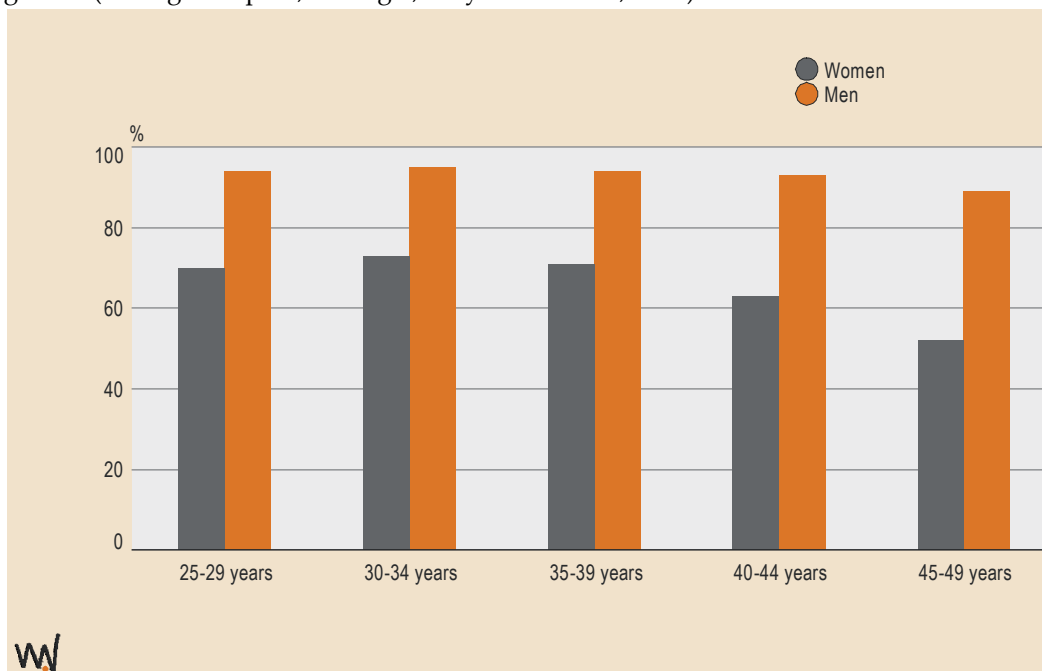
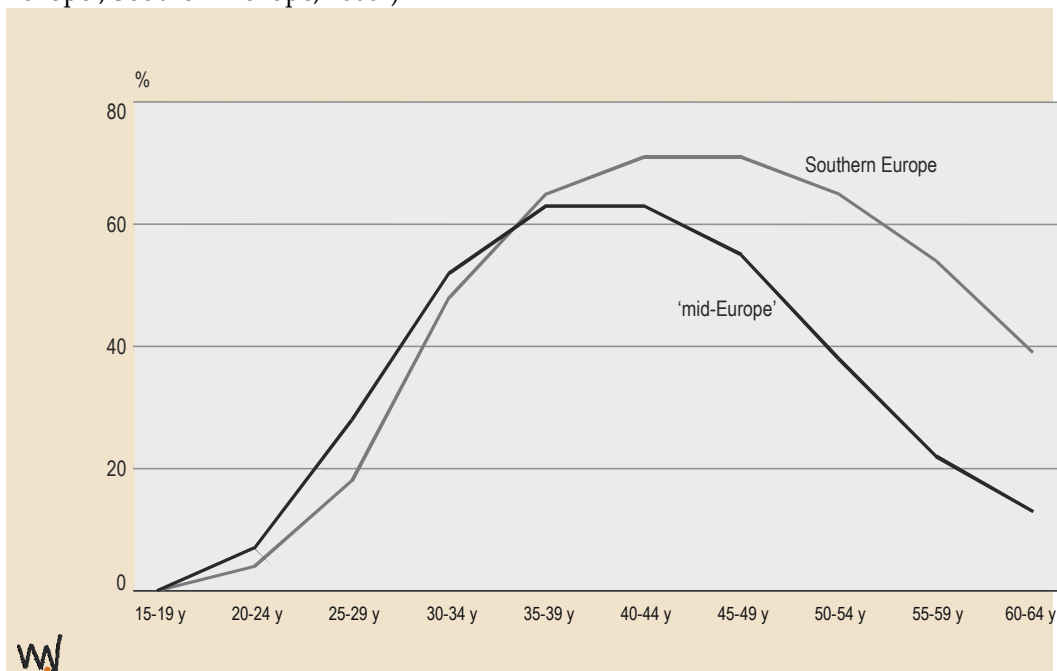


Chart 3.15

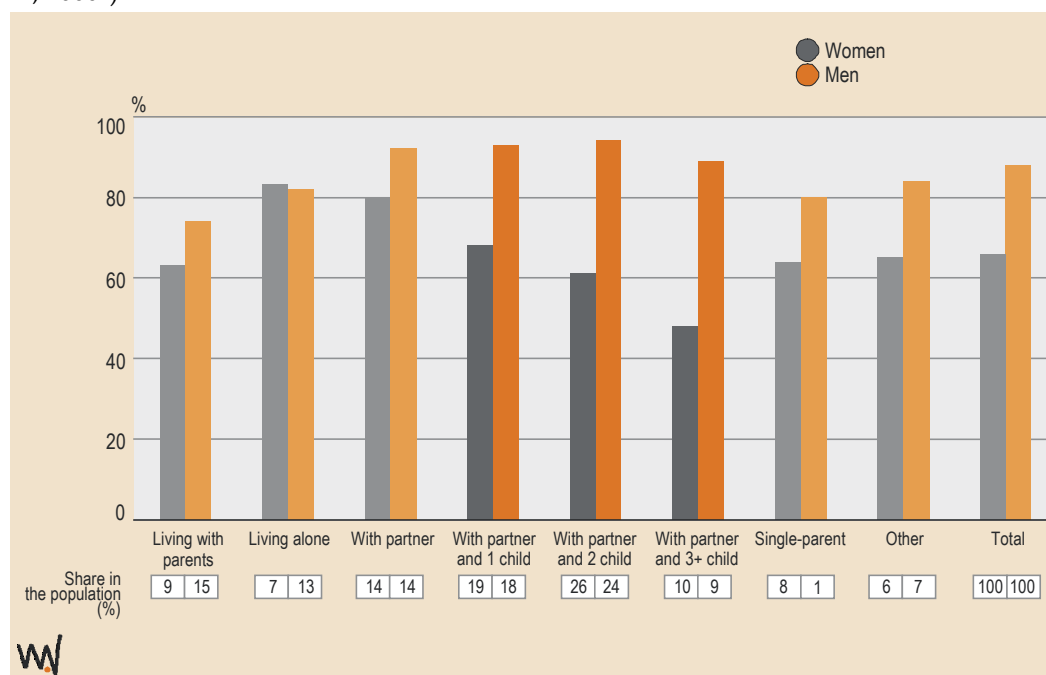
Share of the population living with a partner and children (aged 15-64), in terms of age ('mid-Europe', Southern Europe; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 3.16

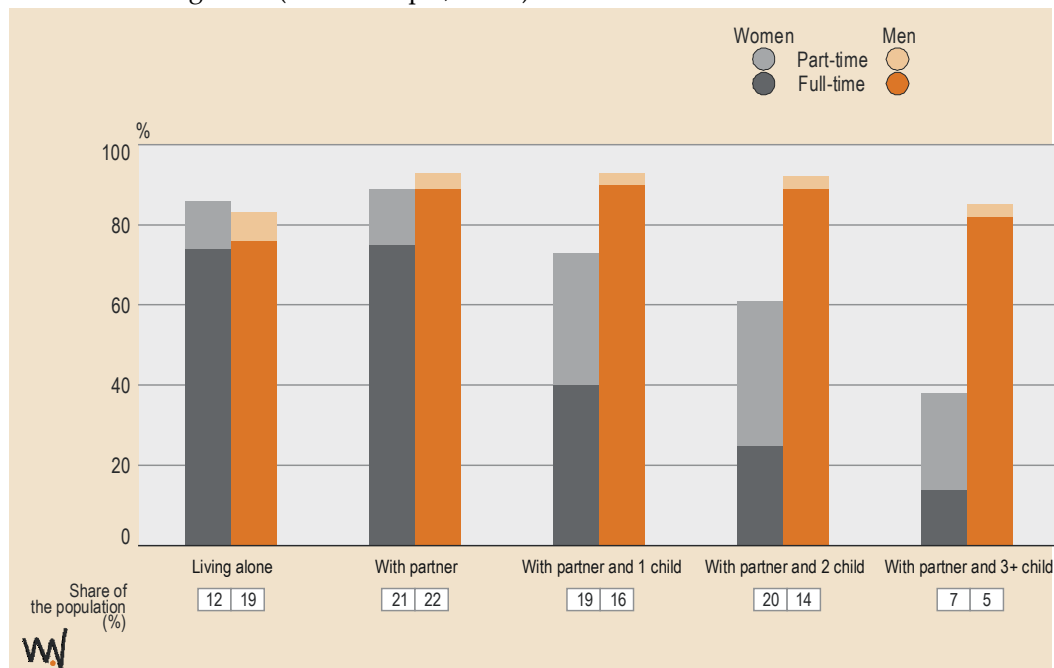
Employment rate of the population (aged 25-49), in terms of type of household and gender (EU-11; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 3.17

Employment rate and share of part-time work of young adults (aged 25-34), in terms of type of household and gender ('mid-Europe'; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 3.18

Employment rate and share of part-time work of young adults (aged 25-34), in terms of type of household and gender (Southern Europe; 2000)

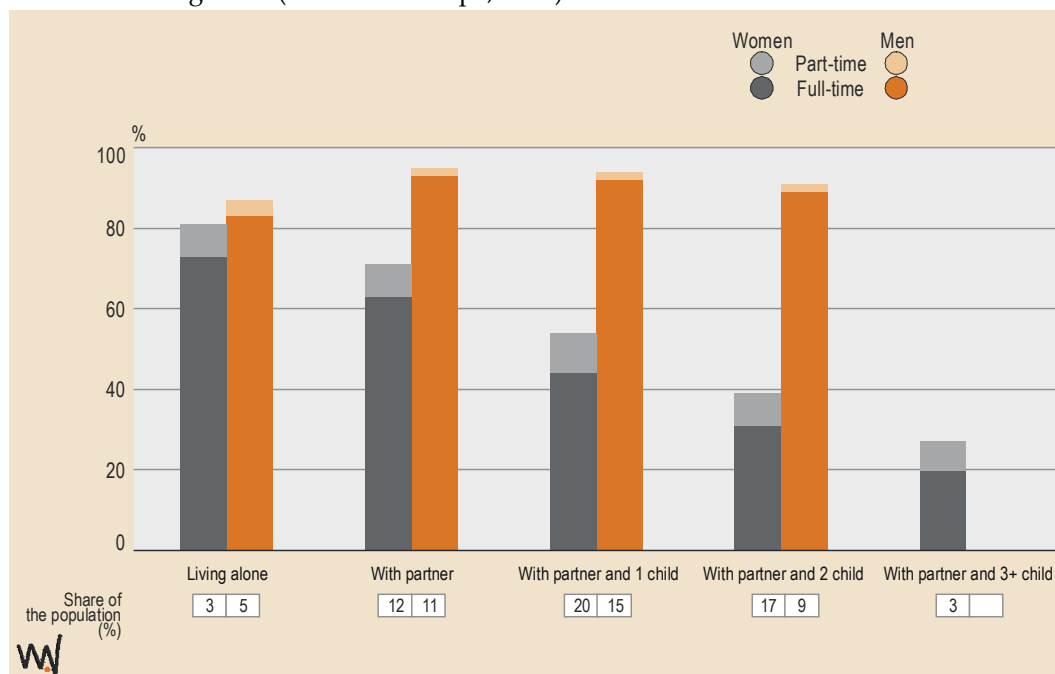
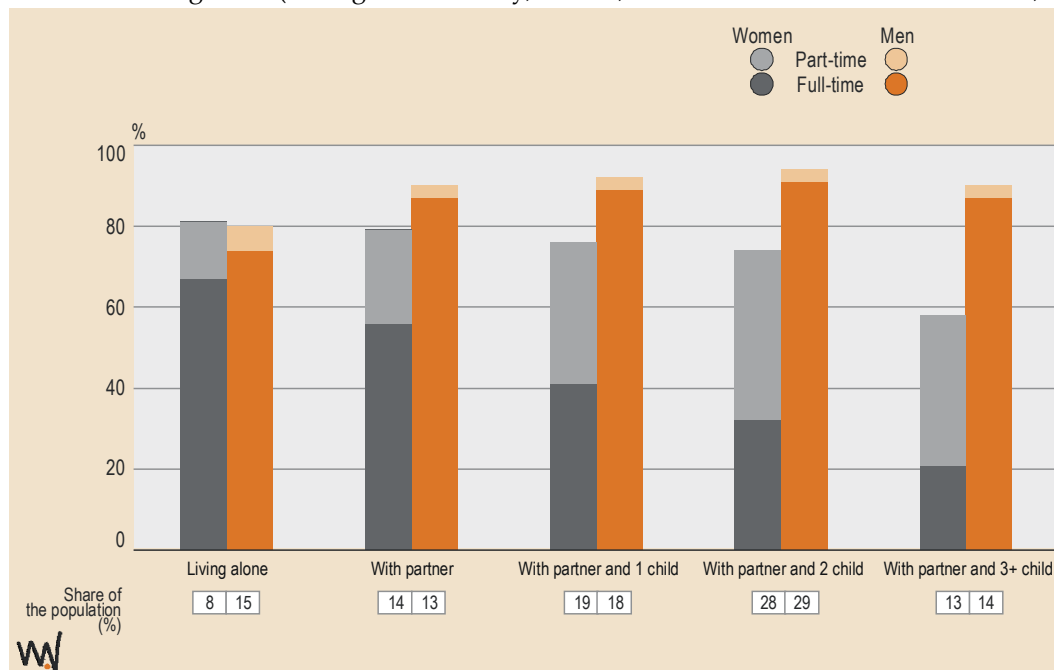


Chart 3.19

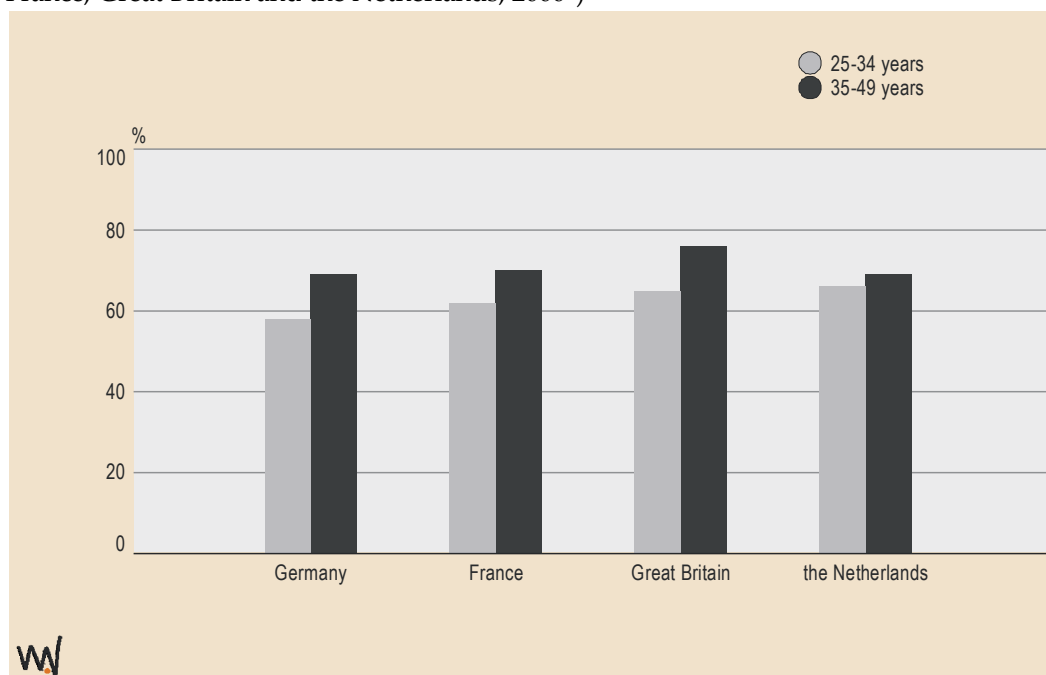
Employment rate and share of part-time work of the population (aged 35-49), in terms of type of household and gender (average in Germany, France, the Netherlands and Great Britain; 2000*)



* Data Great Britain: 1999

Chart 3.20

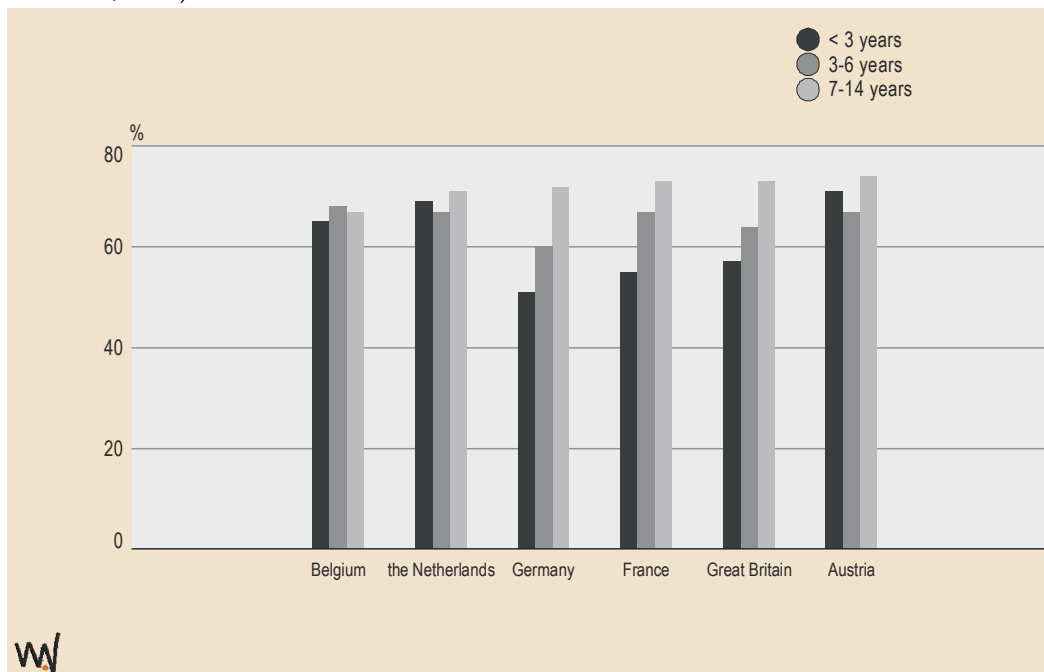
Employment rate of women with a partner and children (aged 25-49), in terms of age (Germany, France, Great Britain and the Netherlands; 2000*)



* Data Great Britain: 1999

Chart 3.21

Employment rate of mothers (aged 25-54), in terms of age of the youngest child ('mid-European' countries; 2001)

**Chart 3.22**

Evolution of the employment rate of women (aged 25-49), in terms of type of household (average in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, France; 1992-2000)

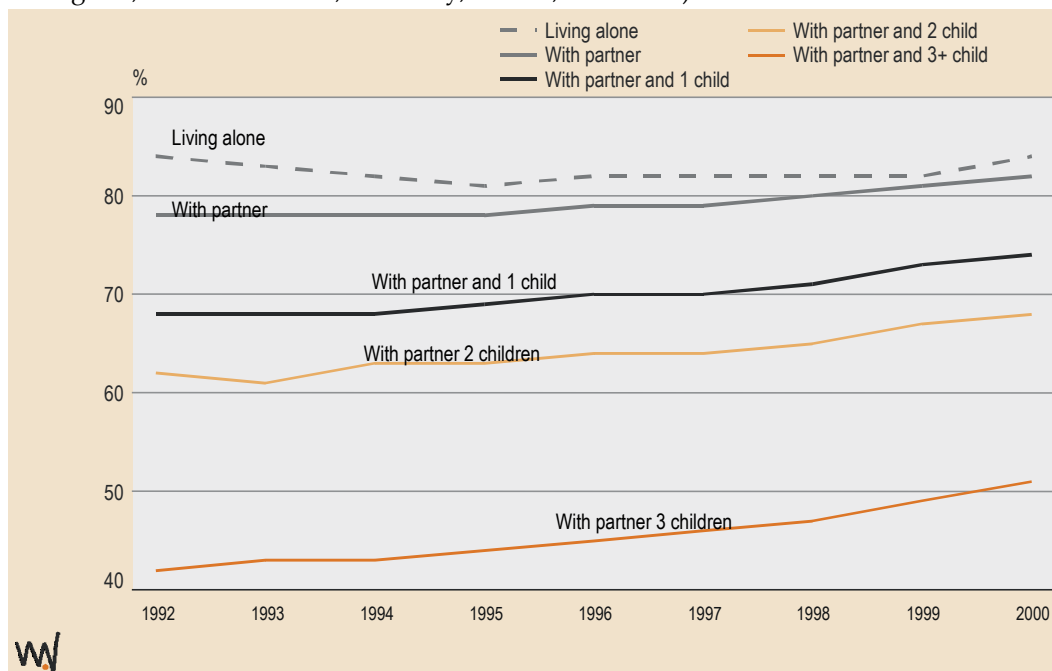


Chart 3.23

Evolution of the employment rate of women (aged 25-49), in terms of type of household (Southern Europe; 1990-2000)

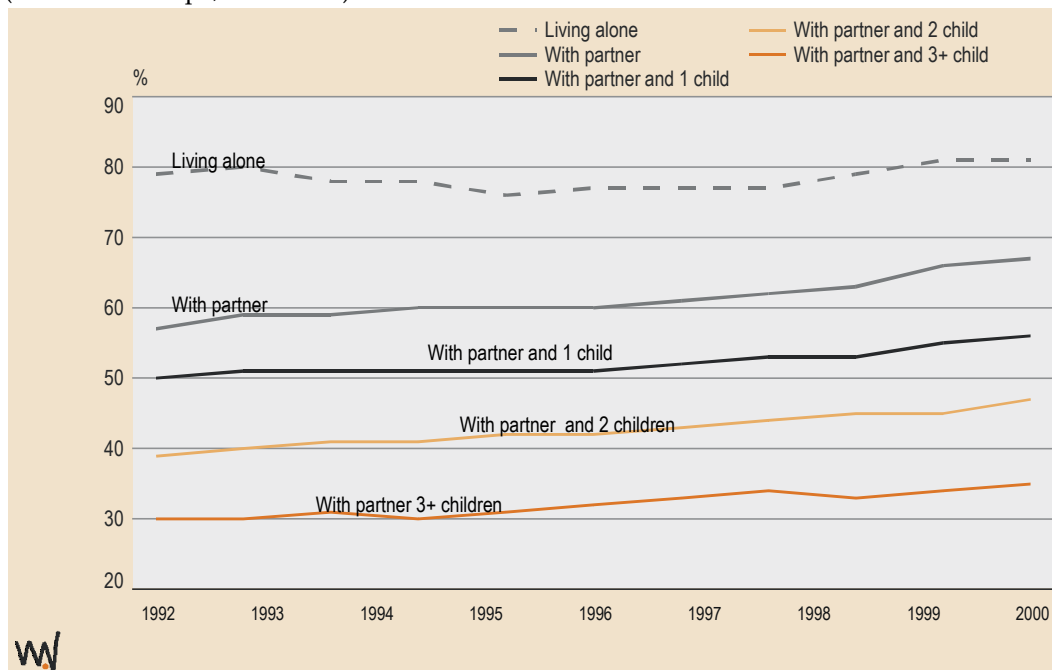
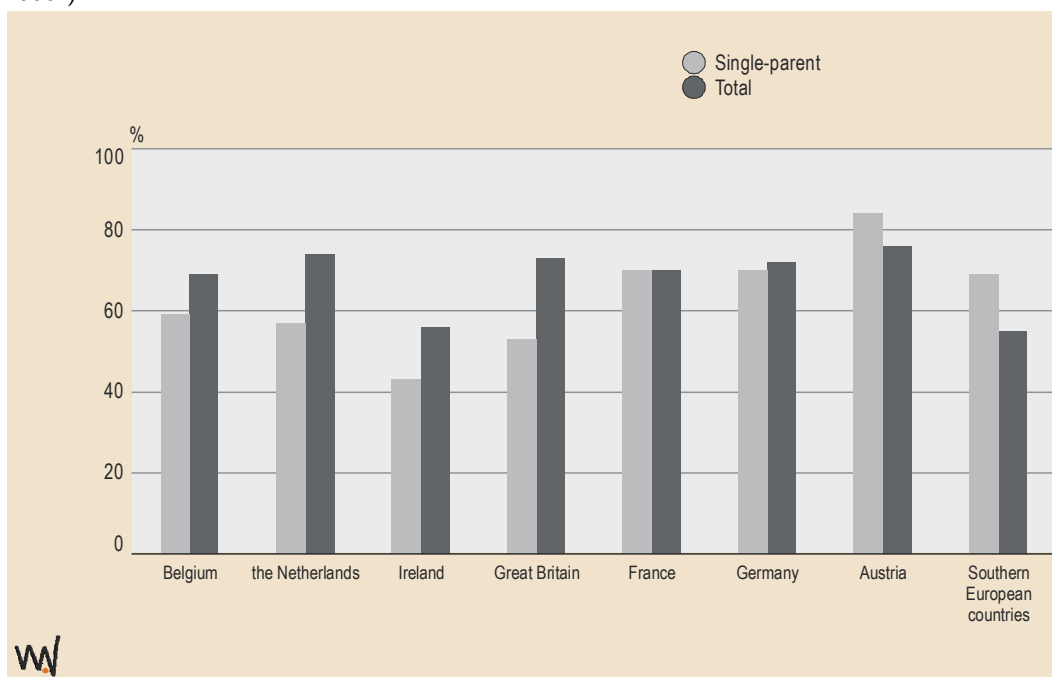


Chart 3.22

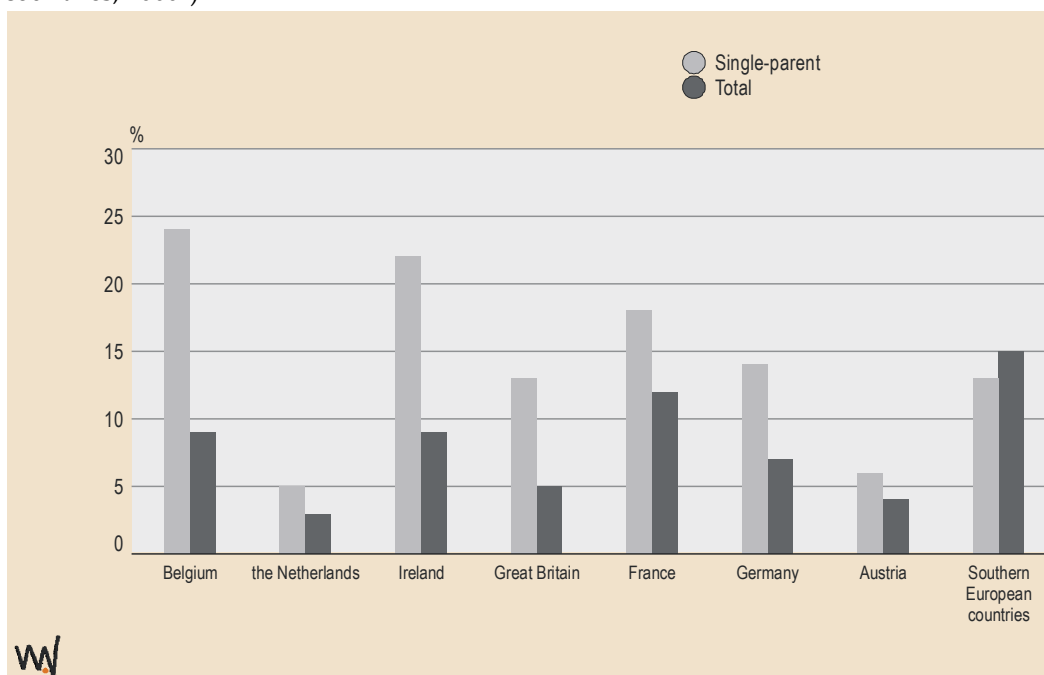
Employment rate of single mothers and of the total female population (aged 25-49) (Belgium, the Netherlands, Ireland, Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria and Southern European countries; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 3.23

Unemployment rate of single mothers and of the total female population (aged 25-49) (Belgium, the Netherlands, Ireland, Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria and Southern European countries; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 3.24

Employment rate of women (aged 25-49), in terms of type of household (Southern Europe; 2000)

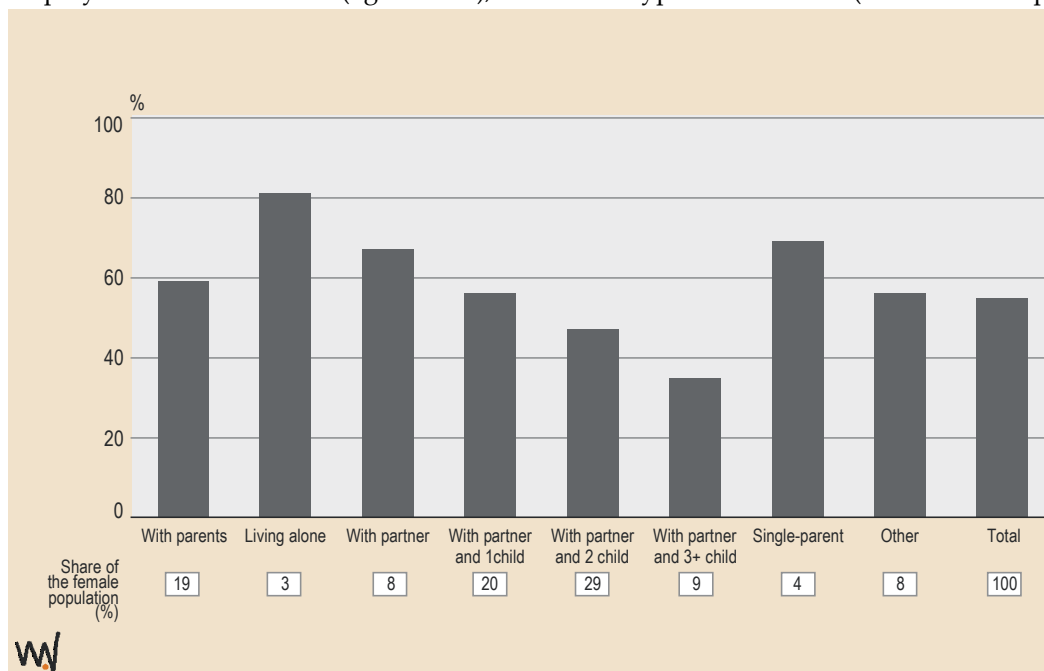
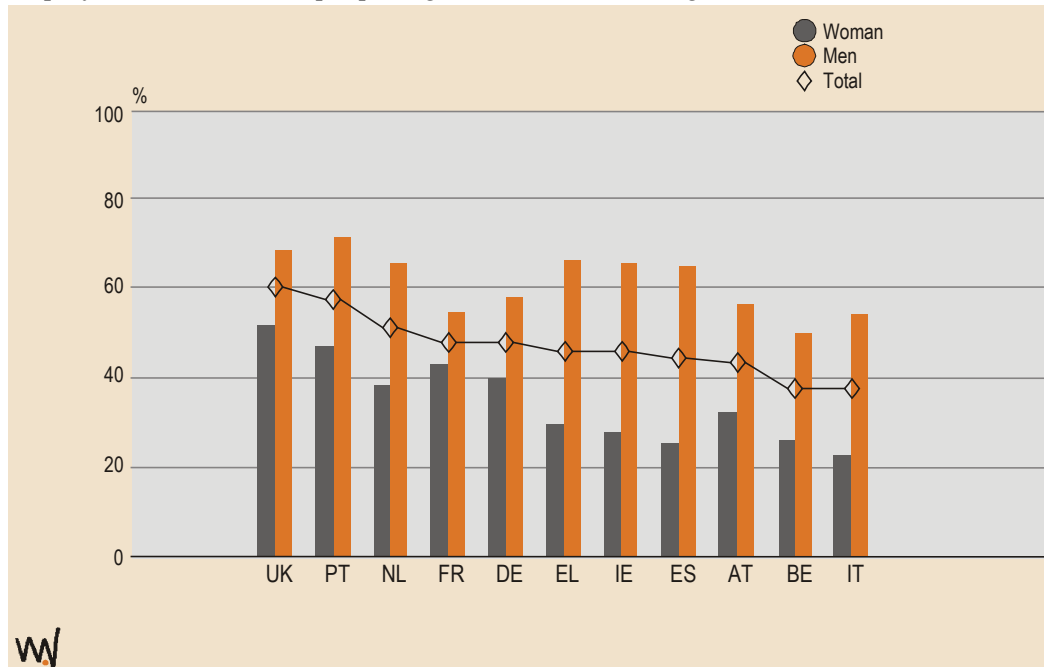


Chart 4.1

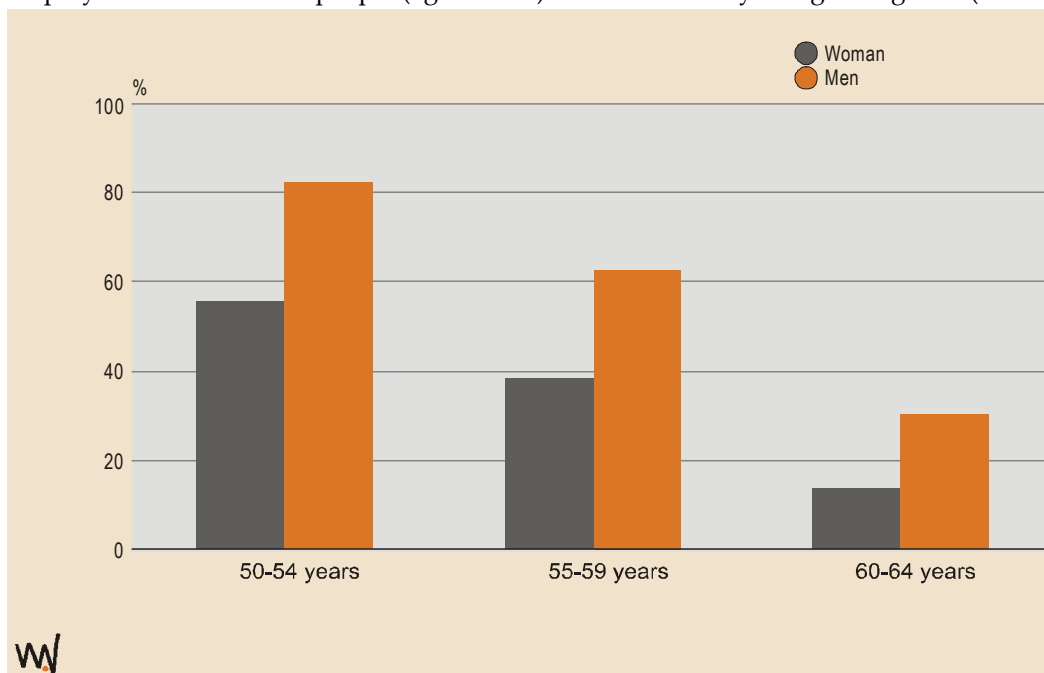
Employment rate of older people (aged 50-64) in terms of gender (EU-11: 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 4.2

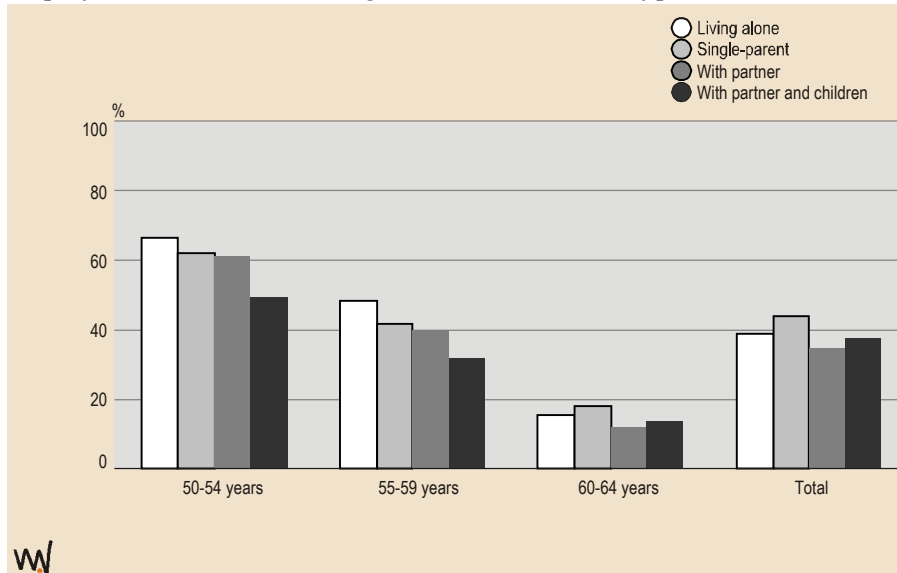
Employment rate of older people (aged 50-64) in terms of five-year age categories (EU-11: 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 4.3

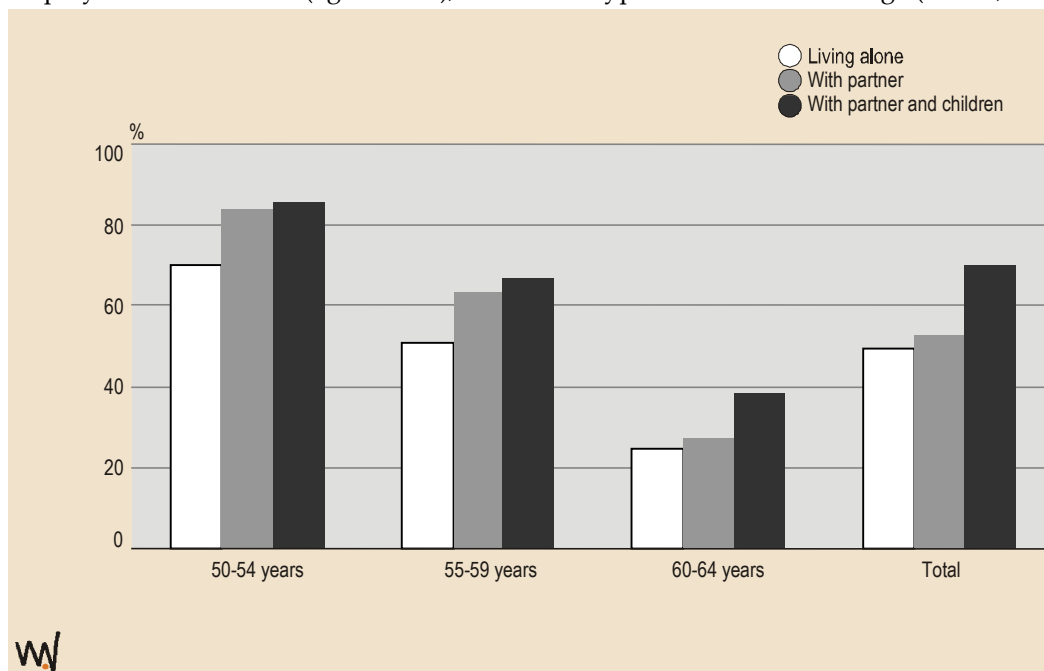
Employment rate of women (aged 50-64), in terms of type of household and age (EU-11; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 4.4

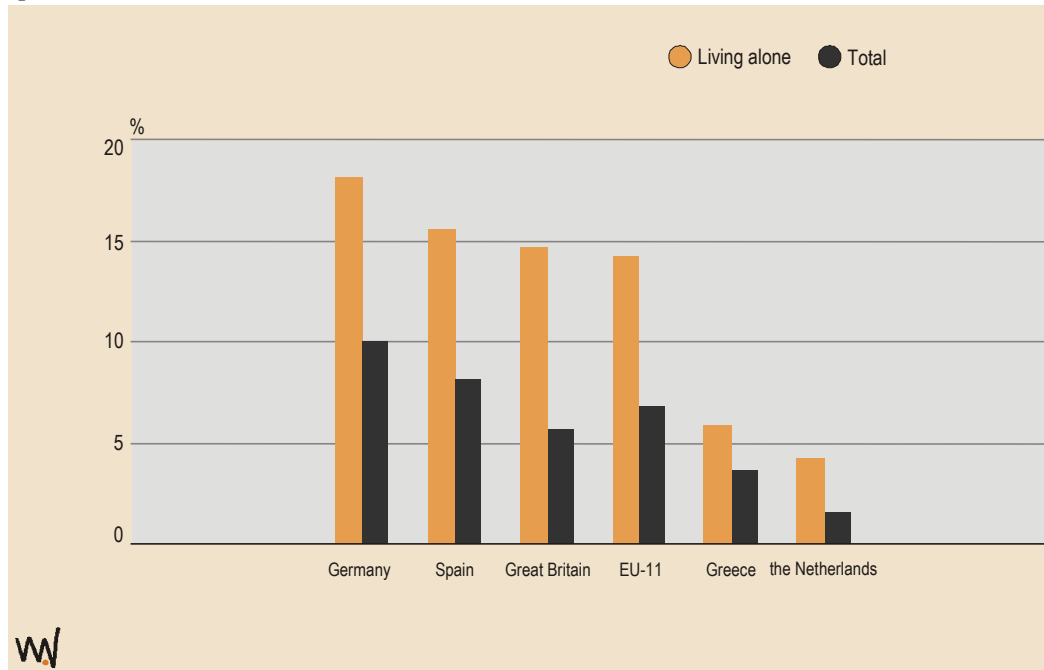
Employment rate of men (aged 50-64), in terms of type of household and age (EU-11; 2000*)



* Data Ireland: 1997, Great Britain: 1999

Chart 4.5

Unemployment rate of men living alone and of the total male population (aged 50-64) (Germany, Spain, Great Britain, EU-11, Greece and the Netherlands; 2000*)

**Chart 4.6**

Employment rate of women (aged 25-64), in terms of type of household and age (Germany; 2000)

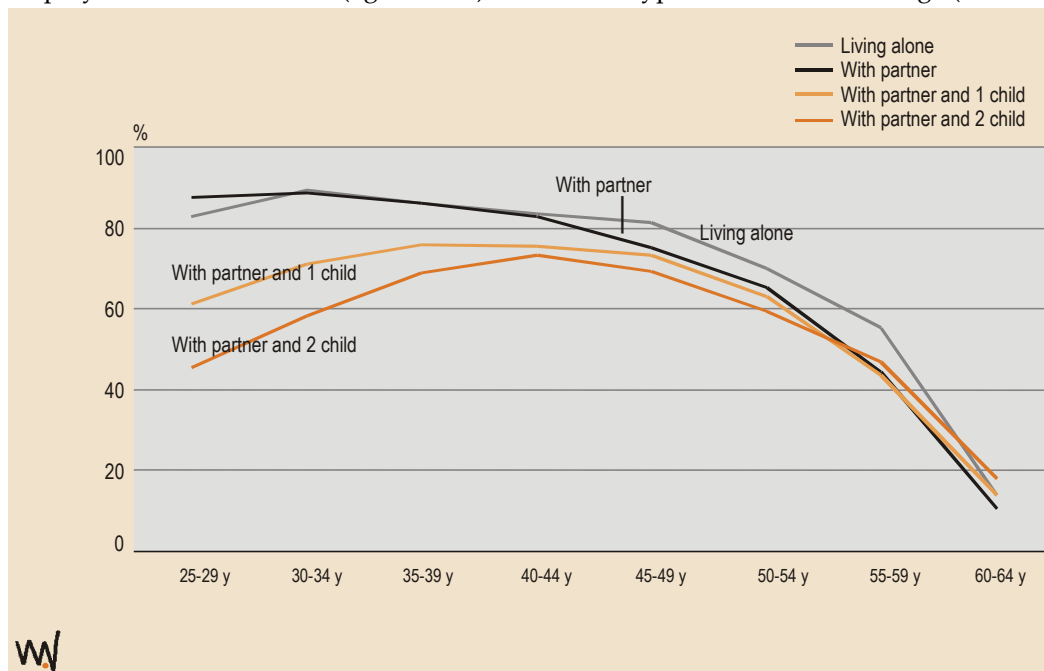


Chart 4.7

Employment rate of men (aged 25-64), in terms of type of household and age (Spain; 2000)

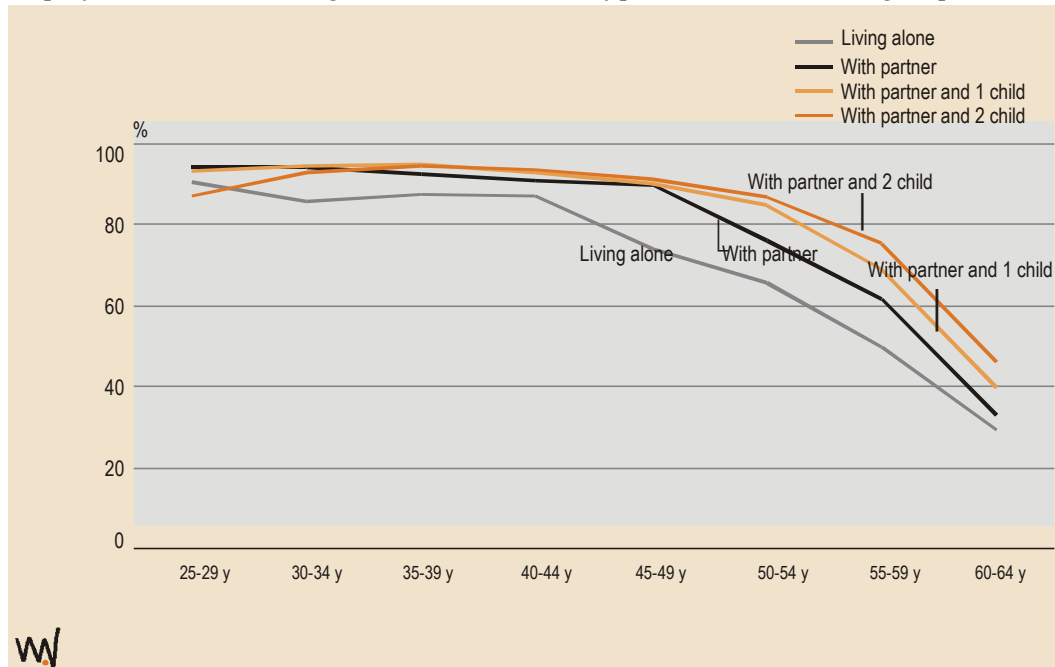


Chart 4.8

Employment rate of women (aged 50-64), in terms of type of household and age (Ireland; 1997)

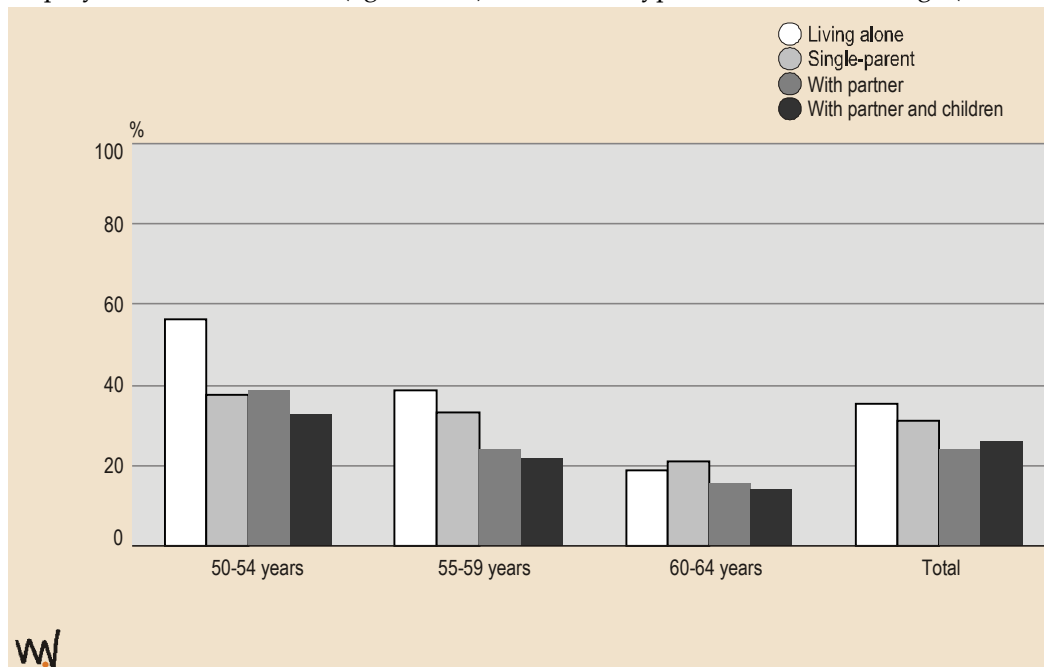
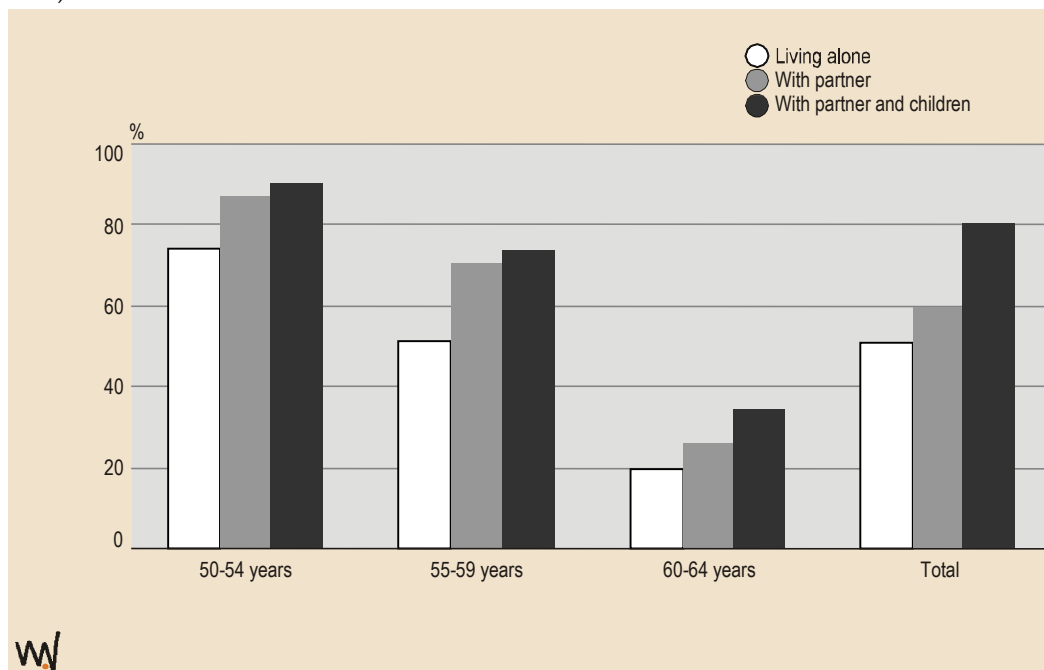


Chart 4.9

Employment rate of men (aged 50-64), in terms of type of household and age (the Netherlands; 2000)

**Chart 4.10**

Employment rate of older people (aged 50-64), in terms of type of household and gender (EU-11; 2000*)

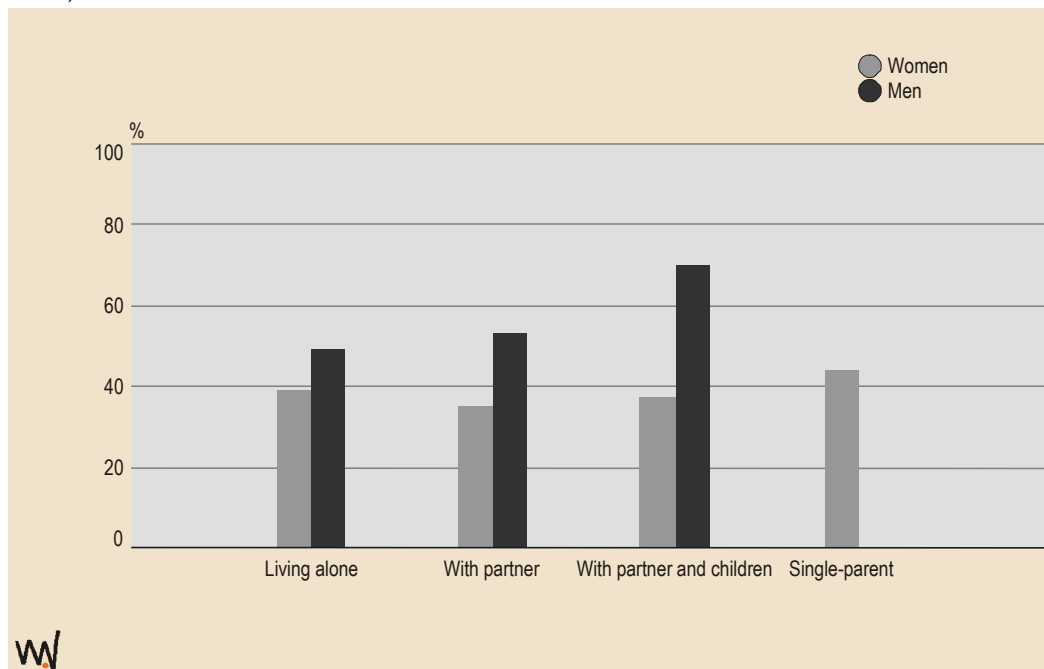
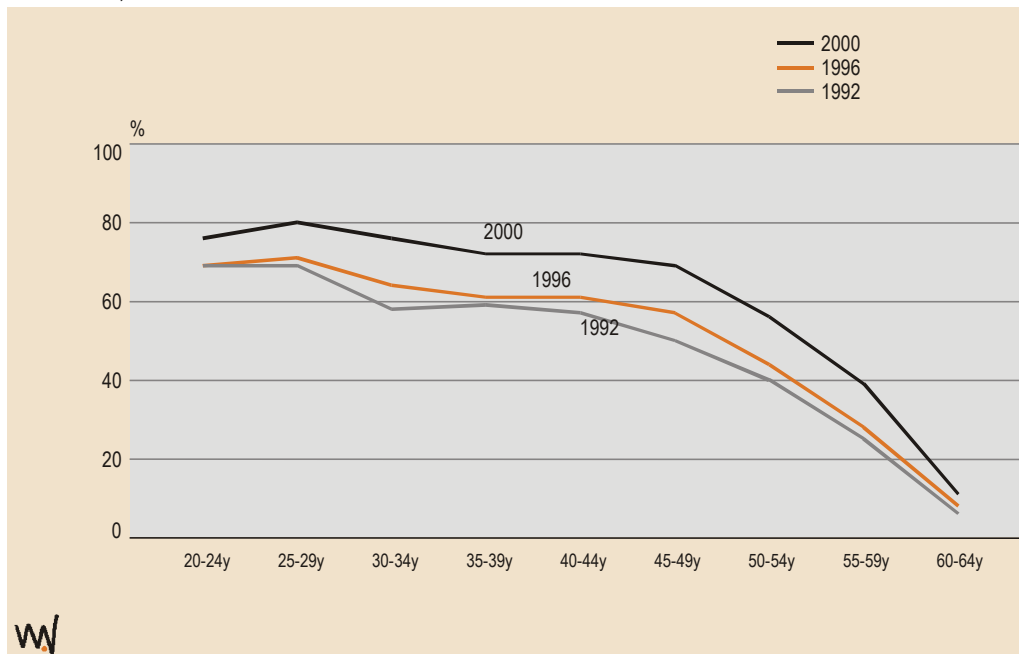


Chart 4.11

Evolution of the employment rate of women (aged 20-64), in terms of age (the Netherlands; 1992-1996-2000)

**Chart 4.12**

Evolution of the employment rate of women (aged 20-64), in terms of age (Spain; 1990-1995-2000)

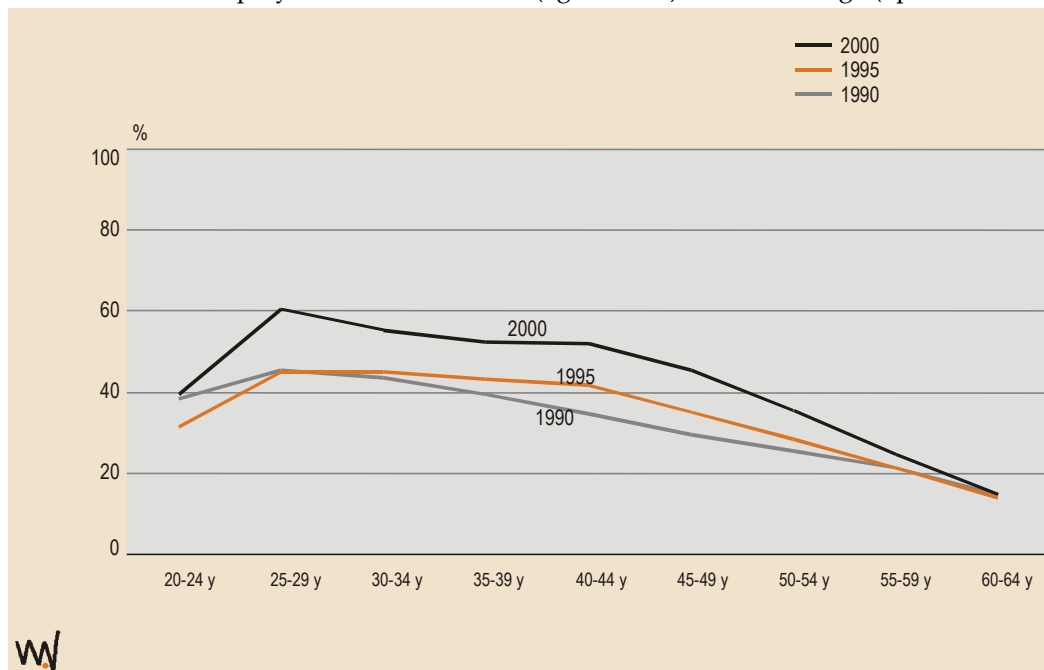


Chart 4.13

Evolution of the employment rate of women (aged 20-64), in terms of age (Great Britain; 1989-1994-1999)

